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EMMANUEL MACRON



VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY



EUROPEAN LEADERS TO GATHER IN PARIS TODAY FOR SUMMIT ON UKRAINE

French President Emmanuel Macron will host leaders from key European countries on Monday to discuss the Ukraine war and the continent's security

EUROPE JITTERY AS U.S. WEIGHS DEAL WITH RUSSIA

The summit will focus on the future of European security as the US pursues a deal with Russia to end the war in Ukraine. European leaders fear Donald Trump may agree to Putin's demands to limit NATO presence in eastern Europe and the US involvement in the continent's security. Leaders of Britain, Germany, Poland, Italy and Denmark will attend

CALL FOR MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON MOSCOW

- Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelenskyy has vowed not to respect a truce negotiated by the US and Russia without Ukraine's input
- Finland's president said Europe must rearm Ukraine and put "maximum pressure on Russia" through sanctions and asset freezes in the run-up to negotiations sought by the US

\$52 bn

THE SIZE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE

ROW OVER HANDCUFFS, TURBAN

3rd aircraft carrying 112 illegal Indians touches down in Amritsar

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE third batch of 112 Indians deported from the United States aboard a military aircraft landed late on Sunday night at Amritsar's Sri Guru Ram Dass International airport.

Among the 112 deportees, 31 are from Punjab, 44 from Haryana, 33 from Gujarat, two from Uttar Pradesh and one each from Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Two women from Punjab were among the deportees.

After security clearance, immigration, and background checks, efforts were being made to send the deportees back to their respective states. Those from Punjab were being taken to their homes in vehicles arranged by the state government. Haryana government had sent two private luxury bus to transport its residents back home.

This was the second deportation flight after the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump in Washington DC last week.

The deportation of Indians is part of an ongoing crackdown by US authorities against illegal immigration.

Several deportees aboard the US aircraft who landed on Saturday night said they were in shackles during the journey and that 6 Sikh youths were not allowed to wear turbans.

Daljit Singh of Kurala Kalan village in Hoshiarpur said they were handcuffed and their legs chained during the journey. "Our legs were chained and hands cuffed throughout the journey. There were three women and three children on board who were not cuffed," Singh said. The shackles were removed before the aircraft landed in Amritsar, he said. Singh had taken the 'Dunki route'. Sourav (20), who reached Chandiwala in Punjab's Ferozepur district on Sunday, said, "We were handcuffed and our legs were chained."

Harjit Singh, who hails from Khanowal Ghuman village in Gurdaspur district, said he was kept at a detention centre and handcuffed on the flight.

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbhandak Committee (SGPC) member Gurcharan Singh condemned the treatment meted out to Sikh youths, and said it would take the matter of sending Sikhs without turbans with US officials. **PIO**



Akali Dal slams Mann

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia said Bhagwant Mann and his ministers are concerned about Punjab's image but are quiet on Sikh youths being deported without turbans

LoC FIRING

INDIA, PAK EXCHANGE FIRE IN J-K'S POONCH

A brief exchange of fire took place about 11 am on Sunday when Pakistani troops fired on an Indian post. The fire was retaliated appropriately by the Indian Army, an official said

US cancels \$21 mn grant meant for voter turnout in India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE newly-created US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) headed by billionaire Elon Musk said it has cancelled the previous administration's \$21 million funding to support efforts to increase voter turnout in India.

The funding was part of a larger \$486 million allocation to the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening. "US taxpayer dollars were going to be spent on the following items, all which have been cancelled," it said, giving a list of funding commitments that stand cancelled.

The list also includes \$29 million to 'strengthen political landscape' in Bangladesh and \$20 million for 'fiscal federalism' in Nepal.

Reacting to the announcement, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said it is proof of external interference in India's electoral process. "Who gains from this? Not the ruling party for sure!" Amit Malviya, BJP's national spokesperson, said.

DOGE was created by President Donald Trump to reduce government spending.

IPL TO BEGIN ON MARCH 22

The latest edition of the Indian Premier League will begin at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, the venue of the defending champions. The 74-match, two-month long competition will also conclude at the same venue on May 25.

KOLKATA TO FACE BENGALURU IN OPENER

The defending champions, as is customary, will kick-start the league with the opener against Bengaluru on March 22. Both sides will have new captains

HYDERABAD AND KOLKATA VENUES FOR KNOCKOUTS AND FINALS

Hyderabad, 2024's losing finalists, will host the first qualifier and the eliminator on May 20 and May 21 before the caravan moves to the home of the current champions for the league's closing stages on May 23 and 25

GROUP 1

Kolkata Knight Riders, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Rajasthan Royals, Chennai Super Kings, Punjab Kings

GROUP 2

Sunrisers Hyderabad, Delhi Capitals, Gujarat Titans, Mumbai Indians, Lucknow Super Giants

KEY DATES

May 20: Qualifier 1 | May 21: Eliminator | May 23: Qualifier 2 | May 25: Final

Man held for cheating KAS officer with fake CM's letter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A 46-year-old man was arrested for faking a chief minister's office letter and forging Siddaramaiah's signature to cheat a Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) officer, who is posted as an assistant commissioner (AC) in the city and wanted a transfer.

The accused, Raghavendra, is a resident of Cantonment and hails from Haveri. He earlier worked as a staff member for the private personal assistant of an MLA. He was arrested recently after the Secretary of the Vidhana Soudha filed a complaint against the use of a fake CM's office letter and signature.

The KAS officer met Raghav-

endra for the transfer as the latter claimed to have connections with government officials and politicians. Raghavendra assured him of a recommendation letter for the posting and demanded a few lakhs. The officer allegedly paid the money, after which Raghavendra gave him a fake letter with the forged signature of the chief minister. When the AC sent the letter to an official through Whatsapp, it was found to be fake, the police said.

The police learnt during questioning that he had cheated many people in the past, but this was the first complaint filed against him. The police, however, did not disclose the exact amount paid by the KAS officer. Raghavendra was booked for cheating and forgery.



Personal belongings of passengers caught in Saturday's stampede lie scattered on a stairway leading to platforms 14 and 15 | x

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR AND SHEKHAR SINGH @ New Delhi

MISCOMMUNICATION, inefficient crowd control measures, confusion over train names are among the major factors that led to the stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday night, which killed at least 18 people, 14 of them women, and injured another 15 passengers.

Over 2,500 passengers booked tickets at New Delhi on Saturday within a span of just one hour, which could also have resulted in overcrowding.

"As 2,600 more tickets were booked within an hour at New Delhi, and there was a surge in crowd numbers for Prayagraj, a special train was announced from Platform 12," the railway ministry said. While the ministry said there was no platform change or cancellation of any special trains, vendors and porters at the railway station claimed an announcement was made about platform change. Following this, they said, passengers waiting at Platform 14

rushed towards Platform 16, resulting in the stampede.

The Delhi Police, which conducted the initial probe, said two trains with identical names—both bound for Prayagraj—led to chaos among thousands of Maha Kumbh devotees. According to senior police officers, an

Rly forms high-level probe into tragedy

Railway ministry has set up an inquiry into the stampede. The probe panel comprises Pankaj Gangwar, Principal Chief Security Commissioner, and Nar Singh, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Northern Railway

announcement for the arrival of the Prayagraj Special at Platform 16 created confusion among passengers waiting for the Prayagraj Express at Platform 14. In the rush to board what they assumed was their train, a large section of the crowd ran towards Platform 16,

triggering a deadly crush.

"There were already four trains scheduled to depart for Prayagraj that night, and three of them were delayed. This caused extreme overcrowding. The announcement further fueled panic, as many passengers believed they had missed their original train and rushed in the wrong direction," said a senior police officer.

The government announced a ₹10 lakh compensation for the families of the deceased, ₹2.5 lakh for those seriously injured, and ₹1 lakh for those with minor injuries.

Despite the stampede, the New Delhi station remained overcrowded on Sunday, with platforms flooded with thousands of passengers trying to board trains to Prayagraj and other destinations. In the wake of the tragedy, there was heavy police presence at the station. The foot-over-bridge and other connecting areas between Platforms 14 and 15 were manned by RPF officers to ensure safe movement of passengers. **P9**



Measures to ease Kumbh travel

Railway ministry said all special trains to Prayagraj will be run only from platform No 16. "So, passengers shall come and go from the Ajmeri Gate side of the New Delhi railway station," the ministry said

Security beefed up at rly stations

Security has been beefed up at key railway stations including Prayagraj, Varanasi, Ayodhya, Kanpur, Lucknow and Mirzapur following the Delhi stampede, officials said

Sack the minister: Congress

Opposition parties alleged the stampede was due to poor management by the authorities. Targeting the railway minister, the Congress urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to sack him

Unsettling calm at ground zero hours after deadly rush

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

SUNDAY morning brought an eerie calm to New Delhi railway station, where just hours earlier a chaotic stampede had claimed 18 lives and left countless others shaken.

Although there was no significant crowd until about 9.30 am on Sunday, the aftermath of the stampede was evident. Toys, infant milk bottles and medicines were among items strewn across the platforms.

"It was total confusion," said a vendor at the station. "When a special train to Prayagraj was announced from platform 16, passengers rushed towards it. That's when the stampede occurred", said a coolie.

The chaos that resulted between platforms 14 and 15, and on the foot-over bridges left scores of passengers crushed. Scattered slippers, torn bags, and abandoned belongings lay scattered across the staircase, the bridge, and platforms 14 and 15 — silent witnesses to the tragedy. "I've been a vendor here for the last 15 years, but I've never seen such a heart-wrenching scene," said Chetan, a local vendor.

Mohan, a cleaning staff at the station, described it as "one of the worst" tragedies he had witnessed in the past 10 years. "There were personal belongings everywhere. People had no time to gather their things; they just ran for their lives," he said, with tears in his eyes.

On Sunday, a majority of passengers returning from Prayagraj alighted at platforms number 14 and 15, which were unusually clean. Some inquired about the casualties, before disappearing into the crowd towards the exit. Reena Devi, 55, from Sarita Vihar, and her husband Dinkar, 59, said they had not encountered problems at the confluence of the rivers in Prayagraj, but did face a lot of difficulty aboard the train to Delhi due to overcrowding.

I saw women fall to the ground, only to be trampled over. People didn't even realize they were stepping on others who were still alive

Dharamji Mandal, Bookstall owner

EXPRESS READ

Kuruburu Shanthakumar airlifted to B'lu, now in Manipal hospital

Bengaluru: Farmer leader Kuruburu Shanthakumar, who was seriously injured in a road accident near Patiala in Punjab, was airlifted to Bengaluru on Sunday. He has been admitted to Manipal Hospital, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office confirmed. Shanthakumar, who suffered a severe spinal injury, had been receiving treatment at a hospital in Patiala since the accident three days ago | **P3**

BJP to decide Delhi CM today, oath-taking likely on Feb 18

New Delhi: Following a historic triumph in the Delhi Assembly elections, the BJP is all set to hold a crucial meeting on Monday at the party headquarters in Delhi to choose the next CM. Sources said the BJP is likely to choose a leader from its winning MLAs to avoid the need for byelections and an oath-taking ceremony will be held on February 18. Party officials have confirmed that 14 names have been sent to the central leadership.

ATS flags B'deshi terrorists entering J'hkhand for training

Ranchi: In a shocking input received by Jharkhand Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), some terrorists entered the state from Bangladesh and returned after providing training to some people in Pakur as part of a conspiracy. Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) terrorist Abdul Mamun reportedly crossed the border from Bangladesh and reached Pakur on January 6, where he trained 15 members of JABA-India. | **PIO**

WONDER WOMAN

Gowri brings Ganga to earth, in her backyard

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

UNABLE to afford a trip to Prayagraj for the Mahakumbh Mela, 57-year-old Gowri has done something unique. She has dug a 40-foot-deep well in her backyard, bringing "Ganga" to earth. She has done it all by herself, and this is not her first time.

In mid-2024, she dug a well to quench the thirst of Anganwadi children and staff amid opposition from the district administration.

"One has to be lucky to go to Mahakumbh. I cannot afford it (Gowri owns a small patch of agriculture land which helps earn her livelihood). I decided to dig a well here and bring Ganga," she told *The New Indian Express*.

She has now dug 40 feet deep and is happy that there is sufficient water in the well.

"I am planning to take a dip on Maha Shivaratri day later

this month," she said. Gowri had heard of the Mahakumbh Mela in December, but realised that she did not have enough money to travel to Prayagraj. That was when she decided to dig the well and started immediately on December 15.

According to her relatives and neighbours, she worked for nearly 6-8 hours a day — digging and dumping the soil. She completed the well on February 15, exactly two months after she started her effort.

Digging a well without the help of anybody is not new to Gowri. With this, she has dug four wells all by herself — one in her field for cultivation, another to quench the thirst of the people of her village and the third one at the Ganesh Nagar Anganwadi School in

Sirsi in mid-2024.

The Anganwadi well was strongly objected to by the district administration after the media reported about her task. The then deputy commissioner ordered the digging to stop at once.

District in-charge minister Mankal Vaidya first honoured her, but later asked her to stop it. But Gowri completed the well after she was supported by then Uttara Kannada Member of Parliament Ananth Kumar Hegde.

He ensured that she completed the well. She had then dug a 45-ft-deep well and it is still in use.

In case of the new well, which she has again dug all alone, Gowri expressed her happiness that she found water in the well.



Gowri works on her 40-foot-deep well in Sirsi, Uttara Kannada | EXPRESS

One has to be lucky to go to Mahakumbh. I cannot afford it. I decided to dig a well here and bring Ganga. I am planning to take a dip on Maha Shivaratri day later this month

Gowri of Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district

PANEL FORMED TO SPEED UP BBC PROJECT LAND ACQUISITION

To oversee BDA committee: Land losers, mainly farmers, want better compensation

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

WITH land acquisition for the Rs 27,000-crore Bengaluru Business Corridor (previously known as Peripheral Ring Road) project proving to be never ending and highly contentious, the tender to be called to build the much-delayed project has been delayed.

To speed it up, the state government on Friday issued a government order, constituting a special committee to tackle the issue and find a solution.

The committee will have the additional chief secretary of the Urban Development Department as chairman with the BDA commissioner and principal secretaries of the law, finance and revenue (disaster management) departments among its members.

The 73.03-km circular project, coming up on 2,560 acres of land, was proposed 20 years ago to decongest Bengaluru. It will connect Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road by crossing Doddaballapur Road, Ballari Road and Old Madras Road. However, land losers, mostly farmers, demand a much higher compensation (market value) than the package proposed by BDA, bringing the acquisition process to a standstill.

The new committee will oversee an internal committee within the BDA which is entrusted only with the task of implementing the BBC. It is headed by the deputy commissioner of land acquisition in BDA and has an executive engineer, special land acquisition officer, tahsildar and district registrar in the team.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru in-charge minister, recently met top BDA officials on the issue and asked officers of the land acquisition department to renegotiate with the farmers. A top BDA official said, "The huge compensation demanded by farmers is just not possible as the cost of the project, which has already escalated very high, will go up further. As per our present calculation, the land acquisition will take the lion's share of the project and is roughly expected to cost Rs 21,000 crore." The public sector Housing and Urban Development Corporation has agreed to be the primary funder for the project. A source said, "Multiple people within a family staking claim to a piece of land is another serious issue BDA is grappling with on the compensation settlement."



If women are unhappy, society will stay impoverished, says Sri Sri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A COUNTRY or a society where women are unhappy will always remain impoverished, said The Art of Living Foundation founder and global peace leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in his inaugural address at the 10th International Women's Conference here on Sunday.

Over three days, voices from different walks of life will build a powerful dialogue on breaking barriers, rediscovering the self, and embracing well-being, a press release said.

In a special session on the 'Role of Creativity in the Mind and Consciousness', actress Sonakshi Sinha said, "Growing up, art was meditative for me—it flowed naturally. The moment I entered here, I felt a shift in my energy. Creativity thrives where people strive to be and do better."

From the military to a creative space, Noorah Abdullah, head of following and coordi-



Actor Sonakshi Sinha, Head of General Sport Authority, Bahrain Noorah Abdullah and others at the 10th International Women's Conference on Sunday | EXPRESS

nator, General Sport Authority, Bahrain, shared her transformation. "In the military, creativity had no place—we simply followed orders. With The Art of Living, I found the freedom to create and realised true creativity serves the community."

Underlining the importance of rest and balance in the lives of women, Bhanumathi Narasimhan, chairperson and the force behind the International Women's Conference, said, "As women, we are in a hurry to

White-topping to create global-class roads: DCM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar stated that white-topping is being implemented under the 'Brand Bengaluru Sugama Sanchar Yojana' to develop international-standard roads in the city. He announced this while inspecting ongoing works at Rajajinagar, Jalahalli, Basavanagudi, Netta-kallappa Circle, Kodigehalli, Hennur and RT Nagar.

Shivakumar emphasised that the government is investing Rs 1,700 crore in the project to build durable roads that are expected to last 30 years. "Under this initiative, white-topping will be carried out on 97 roads

covering a total of 150 km across the city, divided into 14 packages", he said.

He further stated that the project is being executed in co-ordination with government agencies like BBMP, BWSSB, BDA and BESCOM. Necessary provision for cables and power lines are being made, ensuring that digging will not be permitted on these white-topped roads. The project has been given an 11-month deadline for completion. In its second phase, an additional 450 km of roads will be white-topped. "Once all phases are completed, Bengaluru will have a total of 1,700 km of white-topped roads," he said.

'Let Railway Min do his work'

Replying to a media query



Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar inspects white-topping work at Netta-kallappa Circle in Bengaluru on Sunday | MAGARAJA GADKAL

about Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw's veiled jibe on the proposed tunnel road project -- where he suggested that while it may offer a short-

term solution, a robust railway network is essential to decongest a city like Bengaluru, Shivakumar questioned why similar tunnel road projects are

The State is investing ₹1,700 crore in the project to build durable roads that are expected to last 30 years. Under this initiative, white-topping will be carried out on 97 roads

DK Shivakumar, DCM

being allowed in Maharashtra. "What does the proposed tunnel road in Bengaluru have to do with him (Vaishnaw)? Let him do work related to his department (railways)," he said. "We have implemented the Cauvery 5th Phase drinking water project to ensure Bengaluru does not face a water crisis. People should come forward and get water connections," he added.

Special campaign for Cauvery water supply

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN an effort to reduce reliance on water tankers and borewells for drinking water during summer, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has intensified its campaign to encourage residents, particularly in apartment complexes in Bengaluru's outer areas, to apply for Cauvery water connections.

A senior BWSSB official stated that following directives from Deputy Chief Minister (DCM) DK Shivakumar, the board is preparing to address potential water scarcity during the upcoming summer. "Officials in the 110 villages recently merged with BBMP have been instructed to conduct a special Cauvery connection campaign to reduce dependence on groundwater in areas outside the city," the official said.

Earlier, BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasat Manohar held a meeting with office bearers of the Bengaluru Apartment Federation to discuss water supply

concerns. "The Apartment Federation cooperated well last summer by managing available water. With the implementation of the fifth phase of Cauvery Water Supply Scheme, we now have enough water to meet the demand. BWSSB is ready to supply this water to apartments," he added.

So far, 2,643 apartments have applied for water connections through the Cauvery Water Connection Campaign, and demand notices have been issued. However, about 1,252 apartments are yet to apply. A list of apartments that have applied and those that have haven't will be published," the official said.

The BWSSB Chief also highlighted the increasing dependence on groundwater in the city's outer areas. According to an IISc report, groundwater levels are expected to decline during the summer. Based on this, the board has been directed to undertake a special campaign to provide Cauvery connection to slums, densely populated areas and apartments.

Students to protest KPSC Kannada paper errors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

HUNDREDS of students are set to protest at Freedom Park on February 18, alleging that a disproportionate number of Kannada-medium candidates have failed the gazetted probationary officers' recruitment examination conducted by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC).

The candidates, backed by Kannada activists and writers, have demanded that the government withhold the results published on February 10, citing multiple errors in the Kannada version of the question paper.

Writer Baragur Ramachandrappa has written to CM Siddaramaiah in this regard, pointing out that only 15 to 20% of students who wrote the examination in Kannada had passed, raising concerns over discrimination against Kannada-medium students. Kannada Development Authority (KDA) Chairman Purushothama Bilimale said the authority will take up the issue with the state government. "KPSC should have involved the state's translation department to ensure accuracy. If this continues, we may have to suggest that the responsibility of conducting these examinations be handed over to the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA)," he said.

The controversy began with the preliminary examination held on August 27, 2024, for the recruitment of 384 gazetted probationary officers. The Kannada version of the question paper was alleged to have errors due to a flawed translation from English, sparking protests from students. Acknowledging the issue, the CM had ordered a re-examination, which was conducted on December 29, 2024. However, candidates once again found several errors in the Kannada version.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

17th February: Today's two top planets are Mercury and Jupiter, between them the rulers of facts, figures, wisdom and truth. The general tone of the times is favourable for far-sighted agreements, and it's a splendid period for everyone to make peace with their enemies - and resolve never to get into the same difficulties again.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Much has been written about your professional hopes and ambitions over the last year or so. Now those who are climbing the career ladder may at last expect your aspirations to be satisfied. Save significant choices for later in the day, once your mind has cleared.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Once again, the planetary alignments are extraordinarily favourable, and one area of your life which stands to benefit is your relationship with children. There may even be news of an addition to the family before long. Plus, you now need more space and comfort. In your dreams!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The stars are superb for financial transactions, including property deals, whether selling or buying. Mind you, the first thing you need to do is get your facts straight! The wise planetary potential will do you no good. Plus, it's your last day for keeping emotional secrets. The truth will be out next week.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The general tone of the times is optimistic, although as always, there is a chance that your hopes could be raised too high. Make a point of pushing your schemes forward and try to persuade partners that your ideas are best. You're in a suspicious mood, but don't let that blind you to the truth.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

You may expect your hard work and efforts to be rewarded financially, perhaps through extra savings, perhaps as a result of increased earnings. Such good fortune may not take place today, but within six days you will have seen your efforts bear fruit.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

When the Sun encounters both vivacious Venus and magnificent Mars, the only response that is justified is one of awe at all that life has to offer. To fully appreciate just how well you are doing, you must raise your sights from routine drudgery and focus on the wonder of the world.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Friends could soon be seeing important questions in a new light. It is amazing, is it not, how easy you find it to persuade people that you are right? You must, though, make an effort to please. Good news from a partner should be on the way, although you may have to wait two or three days.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

There's much happening that is difficult to explain. However, rather than flounder around in a sea of confusion, may I suggest that all vague and muddled questions are left on one side for the time being. Otherwise partners will think you've let them down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

For the next six days your planets point to one conclusion: all your past professional and financial efforts and struggles are soon to be rewarded in such a manner as to show you that it was all worth while. Emotional ties though, will be particularly unreliable. You have been warned!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

You still have a great deal to gain from other people, though not necessarily in a material sense. You have much to learn, for example, in terms of having the courage of your convictions and the determination to stick to what you know to be absolutely right and proper.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You're not alone in believing that financial affairs are essentially mysterious and impossible to explain. Yet, this week, you must have faith that even developments of which you may be completely unaware, are in your best interests. The stress level in close relationships is about to drop sharply.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)

There are still one or two conflicts in the air, but while partners are likely to be irritable, you are capable of being quite short-tempered yourself. This week is the time for some of your famous tolerance. As passions rise, it may be up to you to keep the peace.

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- A precaution against being fired (6,5)
- Part company with philosopher - there's no comeback (7)
- Girl causes no end of a minor riot (5)
- Amy's out getting vegetables (4)
- A banker's order in mid-America (8)
- Nothing further on Rome strangely enough (2,4)
- Barker is a fool to back the outsider (6)
- A good one can always grow better (8)
- We take turn and turn about on the vessel (4)
- Cross country (5)
- Rose let down by her boyfriend (5,2)
- How things may be bought for cash (2,1,8)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Arroyo, 2 Offsets, 3 Oracle, 4 Organs, 5 Echo, 6 Japan, 7 Haze, 8 Legal charges, 9 Dismaying news, 10 Bear, 11 Achor, 12 Talc, 13 Cash sale, 14 Sentinel, 15 Bonnet

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Print your answer here:

Down: 1 Above all, 2 Roadworks, 3 Yoke, 4 Fire at random, 6 Lame, 7 Exited, 8 Sitter, 11 Bathing belle, 15 Album, 16 Delft, 18 Aviation, 19 Bazaar, 21 Abacus, 22 Dams on, 26 Asti, 27 Dido.

Answers tomorrow

Jumbles: THREW SWEET ABSORB FINITE

Answer: She wanted to begin working on her new novel and was ready to -- START 'WRITE' NOW

SPECIAL CELL MUST MONITOR AQUIFERS, GROUNDWATER RESOURCES: EXPERTS

Call for Integrated Urban Water Management focusing on using all available sources

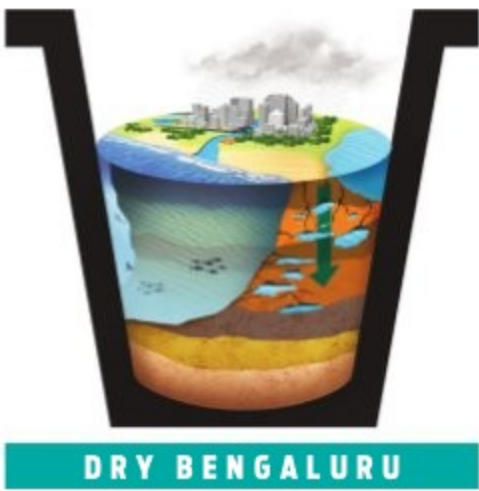
RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

ONCE known as 'Garden City', Bengaluru faced severe water scarcity last year, and is expected to encounter the same crisis this year. Experts warn that unless proper demand and groundwater management plan is implemented, the city will continue to reel under water scarcity every year.

To begin with, hydrologists point out that a dedicated groundwater cell should be created within Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), staffed with experts who can manage and monitor groundwater resources. They explain that this cell, when created, will be able to track water table levels, the health of aquifers, and areas which are over-extracted. With this data, the cell can recommend sustainable water use practices, prevent excessive depletion, and implement recharge strategies to restore aquifers.

An expert, who was previously with the state Irrigation department, explained to TNE that areas that rely entirely on groundwater are at the highest risk of facing severe water shortage, as they have no alternative sources of supply. Moreover, areas that rely on groundwater and have dried-up lakes are among the most vulnerable, as they have no backup water sources.

"The drop in groundwater level is a natural cycle that happens every year, so the condition Bengaluru



may face in the coming months is not new. However, the critical question is — whether groundwater will be entirely exhausted or some reserves will still be available," the official emphasised.

Water conservation expert Vishwanath Srikantiah stressed that the water crisis is primarily due to excessive groundwater extraction without sufficient recharge. "We are drawing more water than nature can replenish, leading to a steady decline in groundwater levels. The absence of a proper groundwater management plan has worsened the situation, as there are no effective measures in place to regulate usage, promote recharge, or ensure long-term sustainability," he said.

The main challenge is to extend water supply to as many areas as possible, as quickly as possible. If this is

delayed, more places will be forced to rely only on groundwater, making the shortage worse, he added, and suggested that to address the growing water crisis, a groundwater cell of experts should be set up. "Without specialized oversight, the unchecked depletion of groundwater will continue, worsening the situation," Srikantiah said.

He added that it is also crucial to map sub-aquifers, identifying underground water reserves, assessing their storage capacity, and tracking current withdrawal rates. This data will help in better groundwater planning and prevent over-extraction.

Another key step is to improve waste water treatment by upgrading all sewage treatment plants (STPs) to the tertiary level, Srikantiah said, adding that regular monitoring of groundwater recharge rates is also necessary to understand how much water is being replenished and to adjust extraction accordingly.

Experts opine that a more effective approach is to adopt Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM), which focuses on using all available water sources — often referred to as the six taps. These include surface water (rivers and reservoirs), groundwater, rainwater harvesting, desalinated water, recycled waste water, and storm water. By efficiently combining these sources, we can reduce dependence on a single supply and build resilience against shortages, they said.



FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Students and volunteers take out an awareness rally to mark International Childhood Cancer Day in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

3 held for stealing 2kg jewellery

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A hallmark section worker, along with two of his friends, escaped after stealing over 2 kg gold jewellery meant for hallmarking in Nagarathpete, in Halasuru Gate police limits. The prime accused Manish, a native of Rajasthan, was employed at the hallmarking centre in Nagarathpete. Following an investigation, the police tracked him down Rajasthan. However, his friend Mahaveer and another accomplice is still absconding.

Sources said that on January 25, the owner of the hallmarking centre filed a complaint regarding the theft and suspected Manish. Based on his complaint, the police began analysing CCTV footage, which led them to

Manish's location in Rajasthan. Manish and his friend Mahaveer were arrested on February 10 and brought back to the city for further investigation.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that the hallmarking centre receives gold jewellery from various jewellery shops in the city. Manish, who worked there, had been planning the theft for the past two months, with the support of two other friends. They took the stolen gold to Rajasthan, where it was stored at a friend's house and later sold to various jewellery shop owners, the police said. The police further added that a team of officers travelled to Rajasthan with the accused on Sunday to recover the stolen gold or ornaments.

CRIME PATROL

Man carries wife to building, pushes her from 2nd floor

Bengaluru: A man killed his wife by pushing her from the second floor of an under-construction building on Saturday night. The incident took place near Chowdavevanahalli on the outskirts of the city. The deceased, Manjula (40), was married to Manjunatha (45). The police said that on Saturday night, Manjunatha and Manjula had a heated argument over a trivial issue. Manjunatha then carried her on his shoulder to an under-construction building and pushed her from the second floor. She suffered severe head injuries. The Sarjapur police are yet to arrest the accused. **ENS**

13-yr-old boy kills toddler with 'toy' gun during game

Mandya: A two-and-half-year-old boy died when he was accidentally shot at by another boy with a gun. The incident happened at Dondhe Madahalli village in Nagamangala taluk on Sunday. The police said Abhishek was shot on the stomach and died on the spot. His parents are from West Bengal and work in a poultry farm. The licensed gun belonged to farm owner Narashima Murthy, who is a political leader. A source said 13-year-old Sudeep Das had come with his father to meet the couple. He found the gun which he thought was a toy, aimed at Abhishek and pulled the trigger. The child's mother was also injured. **ENS**

Kuruburu airlifted to city after Patiala accident, admitted to Manipal hosp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FARMER leader Kuruburu Shanthakumar, who was seriously injured in a road accident near Patiala in Punjab, was airlifted to Bengaluru on Sunday for advanced treatment. He has been admitted to Manipal Hospital, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office confirmed.

Shanthakumar, who suffered a severe spinal injury, had been receiving treatment at a hospital in Patiala since the accident three days ago. Upon learning about his condition, Siddaramaiah directed officials to arrange for his transfer to Bengaluru via air ambulance.

The Karnataka Bhavan Resident Commissioner in Delhi, Imkongla Jamir, was in constant touch with Punjab government officials and doctors in Patiala to coordinate the evacuation. Following the CM's instructions, an air ambulance was arranged on Saturday, and a medical team, along with two assistants, ensured the farmer leader's safe transfer.

However, an update from Manipal Hospital pertaining to Shanthakumar's condition was not shared.

Shanthakumar, who also serves as the president of the State Sugarcane Cultivators Association, was travelling with other farmer leaders to Chandigarh to attend a meeting with government officials and members of Samyukta Kisan Morcha, led by Jagjit Singh Dallewal, when the accident occurred around 5 pm. He was initially shifted to a multi-specialty hospital in Patiala before being flown to Bengaluru.



Farmer leader Kuruburu Shanthakumar brought to Bengaluru in an air ambulance | EXPRESS

MSRUAS holds talk on policy making

Bengaluru: Centre for National Security Studies (CNSS) at MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (MSRUAS) hosted a talk on 'Navigating the Terrain of Policy Making in the Age of Disruption' by Milinda Moragoda, former High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, on Friday. Moragoda shared his insights on India-Sri Lanka relations, characterised by deep historical ties, economic cooperation, and strategic collaboration. He also addressed a broad spectrum of issues, including India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Sri Lanka's 'India First' policy. Additionally, he emphasised the importance of examining bilateral relations in a historical context, highlighting the impact of domestic political factors on these relations. **ENS**

A minor fire broke out near gate number 4 of Palace Grounds, where decoration items were kept in an open space, on Sunday evening. No casualties were reported in the incident. A fire tender rushed to the spot and doused the flames within half-an-hour

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JEE / IIT MAINS 2025

JEE

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AMAZING CONQUEST

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 Vandana B Jakati 99.27 Percentile	 Vivek M Lakkannawar 99.23 Percentile	 Gowade T Sahanand 99.08 Percentile	 Aditya S Divanaji 99.00 Percentile
 Praveen Kishan 98.91	 Chennabasavawamy 98.90	 Ananya S Sarapure 98.83	 Vinuta N Hosamani 98.44
 Abhinav R Hirekumbi 98.27	 Basavant I Kapali 98.18	 Ananya S Chikur 98.13	 Chandan B Motenbennur 98.10
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RESULT OF 2024

183

STUDENTS ADMITTED TO MEDICAL SCIENCE INCLUDING ACADEMY

Aditya K. A. SCORE 700

RESULT OF 2024

151

STUDENTS QUALIFIED FOR IIT ADVANCE

RESULT OF 2025

17

STUDENTS CLEARED NDA EXAM

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Congratulations to Students, Parents & Staff

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LECTURERS & OFFICE STAFF



BOSKY KHANNA @BENGALURU

NAMMA Metro's steep fare hike mind last week has sparked off a debate on the cost of public transport in Bengaluru, and the new ticket rates by Bangalore Rail Corporation Limited (BMRC) are drawing criticism from all quarters.

The Metro has partially helped decongest city roads. Long queues at Metro stations, congested coaches during peak hours and weekends are proof of its rising demand. However, Namma Metro has a long way to go before it becomes an essential mass transport provider from the current niche transport image it has drawn for itself. Despite snail-paced traffic and poor road conditions, BMTC buses, autorickshaws, taxis and even private vehicles continue to be a commuter's choice in Bengaluru.

Urban mobility expert from IISc Prof Ashish Verma said a lack of coordination between government agencies is the prime reason why BMRC is working the way it is at the moment.

"BMRC officials have not understood why Metro was introduced. Metro is in the city for public good and not for making profits. It is gradually becoming an elephant. Providing affordable and seamless public transport is an obligation of the government to ensure people's socio-economic status improves. It is people's constitutional right, which is not being given. It is the government's duty to provide access to livelihood opportunities," he said.

Replying to the question that the Metro is unaffordable for many, a BMRC official simply said: "Use the bus then."

Experts point out that BMRC's problem is attitude. "They don't want to learn from their mistakes. Even though it's a corporation and a limited company, it is accountable to citizens as people pay to use it. There is no transparency. BMRC should not think of breaking even at this point, when it is not connecting all corners of the city, especially congested areas."

An urban development department official admitted that Metro is essential public transport, but it will take a long time to become the lifeline of the city, a status that Delhi Metro has achieved. It has many hurdles to cross. "Affordability is the prime reason. Slow paced construction is another. Even after 14 years, it is not connected to all city areas, more so high density corridors," the official said.

The extensive plan chalked out by BMRC on extending Metro lines shows it means



WITH FARE HIKE, METRO RETAINS ELITE TAG

Bengaluru's Metro network is yet to cover large swathes of the city, is dogged by delays and lack of last-mile connectivity

business. It also raises the pressure on speeding up work.

Dip in ridership

A marginal reduction in hiked ticket rates has not been able to bring back lost ridership. BMRC officials admitted to a dip in ridership after ticket rates were hiked.

Citizens and experts echo that rentals and transportation in Bengaluru is a costly affair. Bus ticket rates are high compared to other cities, including Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai. So are autorickshaw and taxi fares.

Sakshi K, a college student, said: "With my fixed pocket money and other expenses, I find Metro a costly option, but I use it because it helps me reach college fast. The ticket rate hike is unreasonable as I have to pay for auto also to reach college and home. Now I will have to cut back on other expenses."

Satya Arikutharam, an urban mobility expert, said public transport should be affordable. The clientele for BMRC is not middle class and below middle class. Delays have defined BMRC's slow build rate of 7km per year, since its first segment opened in 2011. Eleven years on from 2014, Phase 2 remains incomplete. Perversely, the only current use of the Yellow Line infrastructure is that it serves as a vehicular flyover. It is unlikely that enough coaches will arrive on time,

and any meaningful service on the Yellow Line this year appears impossible. This means that BMRC is losing out on at least 30 per cent more in additional revenues, which could have easily reduced unfair fare hikes. He added that strategic thinking is missing from all aspects at BMRC, from planning to building to operations.



Delays, lack of project management

One of the most important factors for any city is connectivity of the city centre to the airport. This is still to be achieved by Bengaluru Metro. BMRC started groundwork in 2006 and the first train - MG Road to Baiyappanahalli - chugged in 2011. Experts and commuters had then flagged the need for airport connectivity. BMRC started work on the Airport line in 2022 from Krishnarajapuram, setting 2025 as the deadline which is now extended to 2026 under Phase-2B, the Blue Line.

Mobility expert Sanjeev Dymannavar said that instead of starting Metro work from KR

Puram and Silk Board towards the airport, it should have started from the airport. "There are no land acquisition problems on the stretch. In fact, there are land acquisition issues in other places, due to which work on the entire 65-km stretch is delayed. Hebbal to the airport should have been the first priority. Unfortunately, BMRC does not have project management concepts," he said.

The delay in starting the Yellow Line - RV Road-Bommasandra (Phase-2) - due to lack of coaches also shows a series of lapses. BMRC officials admitted that of the total length of 75.06km under Phase-2, only 34.65km has been completed. Similarly, of work undertaken under Phase 2A and 2B, only 49 per cent work is completed for the creation of 58.19km.

Citizens point out that whether it is Electronics City, Airport or Outer Ring Road, the Metro is a decade late, leading to an enormous increase in personal vehicles. "I am now used to leaving home at 7am to reach Whitefield from Sarjapur every day. The half-done Metro pillars on some stretches are not at all encouraging. Traffic jams on city roads show the misplaced priorities of the government," said Jahnavi B, a citizen.

Last-mile connectivity

Even as BMTC boasts that it has feeder buses linked to 46 of the total 66 Metro stations, and

runs 206 buses from 6am to 10.30am, city roads continue to be congested. People prefer their own transport as last-mile connectivity is very poor.

BMTC officials admitted that feeder buses are not available in residential and non-residential stations where parking space is not available. "Feeder service is not available at MG Road, Cubbon Park, Vidhana Soudha, Atiguppe or Vijayanagar Metro stations as there is no need. Every 10-15 minutes, bus service is available at Jnanabharathi, Baiyappanahalli, KR Pura, RV Road, Banashankari, Central Silk Institute, Nagasandra and other stations where footfall is high. We have listed 15 such stations," a BMTC official said.

But people like Shubda V use their own vehicles. "I stay in Byadarahalli. I ride 20 minutes one-way daily to board the Metro from Vijayanagara to reach office. There should be feeder buses available round the clock, especially late night. Metro operates till 11.30pm, but there are no feeder buses at all stations at that time. Besides, they drop people at BMTC bus stands. Night travel in Bengaluru is not safe, especially when roads lack streetlights and footpaths."

Srinivas Alavilli, civic activist, said one of the most difficult challenges for any city is to integrate different modes of transport to make travel seamless, reliable and comfortable for all. "As urban governance is weak in India, transport providers belonging to various departments have different planning cycles and budgets, and don't necessarily collaborate with each other. For the longest time, BMTC has been the only public transport provider but now we have the Metro, and soon, the suburban train. BMTC started running many feeder services, but we have a long way to go in terms of scientifically understanding travel patterns and deploying bus services where needed, when needed. Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) is the need of the hour to coordinate planning and better integrate public transport services," he said.

Metro coverage area

In 14 years of operation, the Metro has covered only 76.95km in Bengaluru, that sprawls across 857sqkm. Further, its ridership has not crossed 10 lakh a day. Long queues, congested Metro trains, roads along Metro stations and parking lots filled with vehicles, all scream out that the Metro had failed to cover all parts of the city, especially high-density corridors.

Instead of quickly expanding Metro coverage in Bengaluru, the State government is chalking out plans to connect Bidadi, Ramanagara and Tumkur. Experts point out that BMRC

should work along the Delhi Metro model. BMRC is doing soil testing for the Orange line, Phase-3 corridor covering Kadabagere to Hosahalli Metro Station, and JP Nagar 4th Phase to Kempapura, covering a total distance of 44.65km; even if 2029 is set as the deadline.

"I stay in Uttarahalli and the nearest Metro station is Nayandahalli, which is 20 minutes away. I prefer a 40-minute ride to work against going to the Metro station, struggling to park and then walking from Metro station to office. The entire exercise would take one-and-a-half hour, besides the cost," said Sudarshan G, a commuter.

Similar is the case with Murthy J, a resident of Basavashwaranagar, who travels an hour by bus to reach Vidhana Soudha rather than travel by Metro.

Rajkumar Dugar, founder, Citizens for Citizens, said the area of Metro coverage is unplanned. This is because BMRC and other government agencies work in silos. He added that after a long struggle, the BMLTA Act was passed in December 2022. But unfortunately, it has not yet been activated. BMLTA is the right authority to decide on anything to do with commute/transport in Bengaluru.

Need to increase frequency

Despite the long standing queues at Metro stations and the congested coaches, BMRC has been unable to increase the frequency of trains at each station. Against the offered capacity of a nine-coach train at a frequency of every one-and-a-half minutes, six coaches trains run every 4-15 minutes. The waiting time adds to the total travel time, which is an additional burden for commuters.

Pravar Chowdhary, founder, Benga Walk, said there are mismanagement issues. Trains are not delivered within deadlines, time and existing ones are not running on time. Instead of looking at one vendor, BMRC should talk to other cities where Metros are operating, and ask for their unused coaches. BMRC is playing safe - against the designed capacity of 60-80kmph, trains run at a speed of 30kmph and sometimes even slower. BMRC should address it to improve services and increase ridership.

BMTC has a ridership of 30-40 lakh people, while BMRC has not even reached 10 lakh, against its estimation of 30 lakh in 2011, he said.

"I have missed two or more trains many a time, just to find a place to stand. If fares are increasing, the number of trains and services should also increase, but this is not even discussed," said an agitated Hrishith S, a Metro user.

Comfortable & affordable, says BMRC

BMRC Managing Director Maheshwar Rao said it is incorrect to say the Metro is currently not affordable by all sections of society. Metro provides a comfortable ride and is punctual. "No other transport can take you long distances at the present rates. It is already being used by all sections of society. We have to improve first, and take up last-mile connectivity with BMTC in the coming days.

Affordability is always considered while deciding Metro fares," he said. Rao added that Metro systems are capital-intensive, and around Rs 500 crore is needed to build 1km of underground stretch and Rs 250 crore for an elevated section. Capital is mostly raised through loans taken from funding agencies, along with central and state government investments. Loans are repaid from the revenue earned. "Our Metro systems are built on world class technologies of trains, signalling and construction, so their maintenance is also expensive." Explaining the delays, Rao said the reasons are many -- land acquisition, tree clearance, shifting utilities, pandemic, contract and labour issues. He explained that multiple agencies like Waqf Board, Railways, defence, forest department, private and government lands are required for projects, and clearance takes time. There are also many court litigations that need to be cleared. Some contractors, after awarding works, ran into financial difficulties leading to delay in execution and termination of contracts.



Our Metro systems are built on world class technologies of trains, signalling and construction, so their maintenance is also expensive

Maheshwar Rao, BMRC Managing Director

CM, DCM trying to make use of 'grace period' to get a hold over power

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

THE coterie of ministers around Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is trying to prove that he is the numero uno both in the party and government, and wishes that he breaks the record of former chief minister late D Devaraj Urs of being the longest serving chief minister of Karnataka.

There is speculation over an alleged agreement where Siddaramaiah is expected to give up his post after completing the half of his term of two-and-a-half years in favour of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. In an interview to a private TV channel recently, Siddaramaiah had said that he wants to break the record of Urs, indicating his ambition to continue in the post as he seems to have a strong backing of majority of legislators in the party, Congress sources said.

Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna openly stated recently that since Urs had the backing of legislators, he could overcome the likes of even Indira Gandhi, who eventually agreed to make him CM. "Urs was not even a member of the House when he became CM, but had the strong support of legislators which then AICC observer Umashankar Dixit noticed and reported to Indira Gandhi. I don't think the

high command ignores the opinion of legislators while electing CM," Rajanna remarked. He also said there is no doubt that Siddaramaiah will break the record of Urs. "What BS Yediyurappa is to BJP, HD Deve Gowda to JDS, Siddaramaiah is to Congress," he added.

Urs served as CM for seven years and 238 days and Siddaramaiah will reach that benchmark in January 2026.

Even after he surpasses that mark, chances of him continuing in the post or anointing a leader of his choice from the AHINDA community to succeed him cannot be ruled out, a senior legislator told TNIE.

"The high command, especially Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, is likely to ask any leader, including Shivakumar, to win the confidence of legislators if they want to replace Siddaramaiah. Shivakumar is likely to make use of the 'grace' period till January 2026 to accomplish that mission," he informed.

The decisions of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal, who is Rahul's Man Friday, will also have a bearing on the decision. They know the strength of both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar and others within the party, another Congress leader said.



Gowda has become a cheerleader for BJP, Modi: Siddu

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday called former PM and Rajya Sabha member HD Deve Gowda as a "cheerleader" for the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Claiming that Gowda, as an RS member, was not raising issues related to irrigation works in Karnataka, Siddaramaiah said the people here expect the JDS patriarch to speak out on issues concerning the state. "Gowda used to always raise issues related to Karnataka, irrespective of the political party in the Centre. But now he has become a cheerleader for the BJP and the PM, which is unfortunate," he said. Siddaramaiah said he will support Gowda on his concern over the linking of the Cauvery and Krishna rivers. "Me and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar will extend our support to your fight. The entire Karnataka will be with you. But at the same time, there is a need to complete old irrigation projects before taking up a new one," he said. Slamming the Union government, the CM said it has done injustice to Karnataka in many issues, including devolution of taxes, compensation paid during natural disasters, drinking water and railway projects. The CM appealed to Gowda to leave politics aside and come forward to work for the welfare of the Kannada language, Kannadigas and Karnataka. **ENS**

Get ready for local body polls, DKS tells Congmen

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister and and KPCC president D K Shivakumar urged party leaders and workers on Sunday to begin preparations for the local body elections in the state, including those for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), as the polls could be announced at any time.

He was speaking after inducting former AICC spokesperson and Supreme Court advocate Brijesh Kalappa and former MP LR Shivaram Gowda into the Congress on Sunday. Kalappa had quit the Congress as its national spokesperson after nearly 25 years in the party and joined the Aam Aadmi Party a few years ago. He left the AAP in November last year.

Welcoming the duo, Shivakumar said, "Senior Congress national leaders like Mallikarjun



DyCM DK Shivakumar inducts former MP LR Shivaram Gowda and former AAP leader Brijesh Kalappa into the Congress, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SNA SHIDHAR B YRAPPAA

Kharge and Rahul Gandhi will participate in the inaugural of the setting up of 100 Congress offices to mark 100 years of Mahatma Gandhi presiding over the AICC in 1924, before March 10, ei-

ther physically or remotely." He underscored the need for the party to be fully ready for the upcoming elections, including those for zilla panchayats, taluk panchayats and the Bru-

hat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. The party is working on alliances and finalising the candidate lists, with a goal to secure at least 50% of the seats for women candidates, he said.

The Congress is on track to set up 100 new party offices at key locations. Leaders such as Kimmane Rathnakar and BV Srinivas are leading efforts to lay the groundwork for the party's operations and to ensure that the buildings come up.

"We have no time to lose," said Shivakumar. "We need to ensure that our team at every level is well-prepared and that our outreach is maximised. Our strength lies in our unity and the vast network of dedicated leaders within Congress. We are an ocean of support, and more leaders will join as we move forward." Asked if any of them are sitting MLAs, Shivakumar said, "Let us keep it a secret for now, shall we?"

Decision on BJP state chief by Feb 20: BYV

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tumakuru

MLA BY Vijayendra on Sunday expressed confidence that he will continue as BJP state president and said the high command will likely take a decision on this by Thursday.

His comments added to speculation in party circles that the high command is likely to announce him as BJP state president on February 18 or 22.

He told reporters that the matter of party state president will be settled after the appointment of district presidents. "The process is going on in Delhi. The central leaders will soon come to the state. They will consult with all the MLAs and take a final decision," he said.

"The central disciplinary committee has given notice to MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal. There was also a 72-hour deadline. I will not respond to what happened and what is happening," he replied to a question.

He said central leaders are monitoring the developments. When Vijayendra's attention was drawn to Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna's statement that he doesn't have the strength to serve a notice to Yatnal, he hit back, "Is Rajanna from our party? He is from Congress."





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TENDER NOTICE

KIER invites tender from eligible bidders for supply of following Medical equipment in two bid system through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No. & date	Subject
1.	KIER/TENDER/ECHO/08/2024-25/Call-2 Date: 28.10.2024	Supply of 2-D Echocardiography with Colour Doppler System Required for Cardiology Dept.

E.M.D. & Security Deposit : As mentioned in the tender document. Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> : 17.02.2025, 4:00 PM onwards. Last Date for submission of tenders : 25.02.2025 upto 04.00 p.m. Date of opening of Technical Bids: 27.02.2025 at 11.30 a.m. For further details contact office during office hours. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject/ cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Administrative Officer,
KIER, Bengaluru.

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Executive Chairman: CEO, Zila Panchayath, Udupi

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಉಡುಪಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಪುಸ್ತಕಗಳು, ಓಟರ್‌ಗಳು ಇತರ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ದಾಖಲೆಗಳ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಪರಿಶೋಧನೆಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಪಡೆಯುವುದರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಣಕಾಸು ತಜ್ಞ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಪರಿಶೋಧಕರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪಟ್ಟಿ (Empanelment of Financial Statement Auditors) ತಯಾರಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ/ಅನುಭವಕ್ಕೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಖಾಸಗೀ ಅಕೌಂಟೆಂಟ್ ಅಥವಾ ಖಾಸಗೀ ಅಕೌಂಟೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುವಿಕೆಯನ್ನು (Expression of Interest) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಖಾಸಗೀ ಅಕೌಂಟೆಂಟ್ ಅಥವಾ ಖಾಸಗೀ ಅಕೌಂಟೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಪಡಿಸುವಿಕೆಯನ್ನು (EOI)ಯನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹತೆ, ದಾಖಲೆಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆಗೆ ಒಪ್ಪಿದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ, ಒಪ್ಪಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರ ಸಹಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಮೊಹರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಛರಿನ ಮೇಲೆ (Empanelment of Financial Statement Auditors Expression of Interest) ಎಂದು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಇಡಬೇಕು. ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ಮೊಹರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಕಛರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಪರಿಶೋಧನಾ ಕುಬ್ಜದ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಹಾಕಿ ಕಛರಿನ ಮೇಲೆ (Empanelment of Financial Statement Auditors Financial Bid) ಎಂದು ನಮೂದಿಸಿ ಇಡಬೇಕು ಈ ಎರಡು ಕಛರನ್ನು ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಎ ಎಸ್ ಎಸ್ ಲೇಔಟ್ 4ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಅನಂತನಗರ ಮಹಿಳಾ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.

- ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಾನತೆ: ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16-02-2025 ರಿಂದ 27-02-2025 ರವರೆಗೆ (ರಜಾ ದಿನ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಕುಬ್ಜ ರೂ. 50/- ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬೇಕು.
- ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಾನತೆಯನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-02-2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
- ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಾನತೆಯನ್ನು ಕಛರಿಯು ದಿನಾಂಕ 28-02-2025 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ ಗಂಟೆ 10.30ಕ್ಕೆ
- ನಿಗದಿತ ಸಮಾನತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಎ ಎಸ್ ಎಸ್ ಲೇಔಟ್, 4ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಅನಂತನಗರ ಮಹಿಳಾ -576104 ಕಛರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-02-2025
ಸ್ಥಳ: ಮಹಿಳಾ, ಉಡುಪಿ



CITY UNION BANK LIMITED

Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar,
Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id : crmd@cityunionbank.in,
Ph : 0435-2432322, Fax : 0435-2431746

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.68,61,728/- (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh Sixty One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Eight only) as on 06-01-2025 together with further interest to be charged from 07-01-2025 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) M/s. Muddu Communications, No.119, Railway Gate Road, Patharapalya, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560039. Also at M/s. Muddu Communications, No.4, Basavalingappa (Janatha) Colony, Nayandahally Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560039. No.2) Mr. P. Muniramu, S/o. Mr. Puttappa, No.4, Basavalingappa Colony, Nayandahally, Bangalore - 560039. No.3) Mrs. M. Mahalakshmi, W/o. Mr. P. Muniramu, No.4, Basavalingappa Colony, Nayandahally, Bangalore - 560039. No.4) Mr. Seetharamaiah, S/o. Mr. Puttiah, No.4, Janatha Colony, Nayandahally, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560039.

Notes:- (1) That our 109 -Bengaluru-Koramangala Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL-BR- 50181208062995) dated 31-03-2020 requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for which Nos.2 & 3 of you stood as Co-Debtors and No.4 of you stood as Guarantor for the facility for a Total Amount of Rs.27,00,000/- at a ROI of 16.50%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 31-05-2021 and the outstanding balance as on 06-01-2025 is Rs.5,24,470/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 07-01-2025 till the date of realization.

(2) That our 109 -Bengaluru -Koramangala Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (FITL-ADHOC: 501912090016192) dated 04-09-2020 requested by No.1 of you for the facility for a Total Amount of Rs.1,77,000/- at a ROI of 14.50%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 31-05-2021 and the outstanding balance as on 06-01-2025 is Rs.3,23,133/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rests to be charged from 07-01-2025 till the date of realization.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Seetharamaiah, S/o. Mr. Puttiah)

All that piece and parcel of the Property, Bearing KK No.997/968 situated at Gangondanahalli, Lawyeragahalli, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring: East to West 60 feet and North to South 45 feet, Along with 1.5 Square Sheet House and Bounded on the: East by - Road, West by - Property of Mr. Munithayappa, South by - Portion of Property belonging to the Seller and North by - Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.55,00,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Five Lakh only)

RE-AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
------------------------------------	-------

07-03-2025

City Union Bank Limited,
Bengaluru-Koramangala Branch,
92, Z Square, Ground Floor, Jyothi Nivas
College Road, Industrial Layout, 5th Block,
Koramangala, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban-560034.
Telephone No.080-25630439, Cell No.9342874657.

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Koramangala Branch, 92, Z Square, Ground Floor, Jyothi Nivas College Road, Industrial Layout, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban-560034. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of the Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.080-25630439, Cell No.9342874657. (5) The properties are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever - there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 15-02-2025

Authorised Officer

Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No. 0435-2402322, Fax : 0435-2431746, Website : www.cityunionbank.com

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No.: IIIT-Bh/Cont. Faculty/2024 Date : 15.02.2025

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* Ignore if already applied. DIRECTOR

AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in



RPC LAYOUT BRANCH
#46, 5th Main RPC Layout, Bangalore 560040
Tel : 080-22959517, 22959516,
Email : RpcLayout.Bangaluru@bankofindia.co.in

Ref: RPC/2024-25/751-390/1 Date: 15-02-2025

[Rule - 8 (1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12), read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 28-10-2024 calling upon the borrower Mr. Suresh B K (Address: No 1246 8th Cross, Near SBI Chandra Layout, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560040 and also available at: Flat No : G-02 ground floor, Shree Shankar Apartment, 7/1 Palace Cross Road, Bengaluru 560051) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 4,44,86,877.79 (Rupees Four Crores Forty Four Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven and Paise Seven Nine) along with further interest within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the 15th day of February of the year 2025.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India for an amount of Rs. 4,44,86,877.79 and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

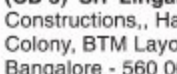
DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Schedule A Property : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.7/1, situated at Palace cross Road, Bangalore, measuring 13,000 square feet and bounded on: East By: Private Property West By: Vendors Vacant land measuring 1405 sq. Ft North By: Palace Cross Road South By: Private Property

Schedule B Property : All that piece and parcel of the residential flat bearing No. G-02 Ground floor, 4 Bed Room flat in residential apartment project complex known as "Shree Sai Shankara Apartments" constructed on the schedule A property having super built up area of 2760 square feet which is inclusive of the floors and walls between the flats and proportionate share in all common areas, including the proportionate share in the common areas such as, passages, pathway, lobbies, staircase, garden area, sump, overhead tanks on the terrace and the solar panels and other areas of common use, without terrace area along with 1300 square feet of undivided share of land with 2 covered car parking slots in the basement. Presently the flat is within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, bearing khata certificate/E-khata, PID No.78-119-7/1-2, ward no.78-Vasanthnagar-Bangalore. Boundaries for the Flat: East By: Corridor West By: Open space North By: Open space South By: Open space

Date: 15-02-2025 Sd/- Authorized Officer

Place: Bengaluru Bank Of India, Bengaluru Zone



OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -III
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-2)
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Rajbhawan Road Bangalore - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC 83/2024 in OA No. 628/2021

KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK V/S. SRI B. M. SHANKAR & OTHERS
(CH) Karnataka Gramin Bank, Banashankari Branch, No. 2236, 1st Floor, 23rd Cross, Opp. Laxmi Venkateshwara Kalyana Mantapa, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 070

... Certificate Holder
Versus
(CD 1): Sri B. M. Shankar S/o. Sri Mallegowda, R/at: No. 20, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, Ramakrishna Nagar, J. P. Nagar, 6th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078, Karnataka.

(CD 2): Smt. K. Roopa W/o. Sri Nagasuri Sundar Raju, Residing at No. 124/1, Near Infosys Gate No. 6, Konappanna Agrahara, Electronic City, Electronic City Post Office Phase -1 Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 100.
(CD 3) Sri Lingaraj G. S/o. Sri Shivappa Gorava, Proprietor of M/s. Elite Constructions, Having his Office at No. 12, 11th Cross, Near IAS Officers College, BTM Layout, and Residing at No. 12, 11th Cross, BSK 6th Stage, Bangalore - 560 060, Karnataka. ...Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT-2) in OA/628/2021 an amount of Rs.38,01,656.00 (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs One Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Six Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 11% compound interest Monthly w.e.f. 01.07.2021 till realization and costs of Rs.66835/- (Rupees Sixty six Thousands Eight Hundred and Thirty Five Only) has become due against you jointly and severally. 2) You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.3) You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of your assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4) You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings.5) In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay-(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on 28.03.2024

Sd/- Recover Officer,
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT-2)

NB: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the II Schedule to the Income Tax Act 1961 read with RDBFI Act 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representatives or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other moneys contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWW-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009.

No: BWSSB/E(WWW-P)/V/AEE-1/2006/2024-25 Date: 14-02-2025

AUCTION NOTIFICATION (CALL-4)

LCB (Local Competitive Bidding) (only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Direct Auction from the Public through e-Procurement for the work of Auction of 150mm and below size stone boulders release from 180 MLD STP Biofilter at V. Valley, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru. Amount Put to Auction: Rs. 1,30,40,463.15. EMD: Rs. 1,30,000/-

Date of Auction in E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka on 24-02-2025 from 12.00 to 16.00 Hours.

The details regarding the Auction and Participation in the e-Procurement Process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Sd/-

DIPR/CP/Advt/5083/2024-25 Executive Engineer (WWW-P) V.Valley

UNIMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

RO: N.G. 12 & 13 Ground Floor, North Block, Manipal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042. CIN No.U85110KA1995PLC018175

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by Unimoni Financial Services Limited on 20.02.2025 at 10:00 am at the respective centers given below. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Auction Center Address & Loan Nos: TUMKUR (TKR - ABOVE COFFEE DAYCG ARCADE. VIDYANAGAR (D), TUMKUR - 572103, Contact No. 8129699081) 2131522, 2114830.

(Reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH

AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE Established by Govt. of Karnataka
(A Postgraduate Institute of Higher Medical Sciences)
Recognised Under Societies Registration Act. Reg. No. 132/85-86
South Hospital Complex, Dharmaram College Post, Bangalore-560029.
e-mail: healthchild@yahoo.in Website: igich.karnataka.gov.in

IFT No.: IGICH/ADMIN/EST3/2/2025-ACCTS-IGICH Date: 11.02.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER

(Through GoK e-Portal Platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

Tenders are invited through GoK e-portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> by the director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bangalore-560029 from eligible tenderers for the following mentioned hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Services	E.M.D. in Rupees	Tender Processing Charges
1	Man Power Services	1,00,000/-	As per e-procurement website

1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from: 17.02.2025. 2) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: 17.03.2025 upto 4.00 PM. 3) Last Date and Time of Opening of Technical Bid: 18.03.2025 at 4.00 PM. 4) Date and Time of Opening of Financial Bids (Of Only Technically Qualified Accepted Bidders): Will be informed.

For further detail visit GoK e-portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact e-procurement helpdesk on 080-25501216, 080-25501227.

Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority / Administrative Officer, IGICH

DIPR/CP/BCPL/5068/2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: VJPI/Proj/D/EE/2024-25/F-283 & 277/4584 & 4585 Date: 10.02.2025

CAUTION NOTICE

(1) Construction of 110kV LILO line from one circuit of 110kV B.Bagewadi-Mamadapura DC line to the proposed 110/11kV sub-station at Kakhandaki for a distance of 8.562km in Babaleshwara Taluk, Vijayapura District. The line work is nearing completion and line will be charged on or after the date 21.02.2025. The power line passes through Kubakaddi and Kakhandaki villages limit.

(2) Construction of 110kV SC Line on DC Towers using Lynx conductor from Proposed 110kV Kerur sub-station to Proposed 110kV sub-station at Umaraj (Revathagaon) for a distance of 18.332km along with construction of 110kV Terminal Bay at proposed 110kV Kerur sub-station in Indi Taluk, Vijayapura District. The line work is nearing completion and line will be charged on or after the date 15.03.2025. The power line passes through Keru, Umarani, Sankh and Revathagaon villages limit.

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Registered Office: Unit No. 1101, 11th Floor, Cignus, Plot No. 71 A, Powai, Pascoli, Mumbai – 400087

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E – Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the Public in general and in particular to the Borrowers/Co – Borrowers/Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, Fedbank Financial Services Limited, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Secured Creditor, will be sold on “As is where is”, “As is what is” and “wherever there is” on 25/03/2025 from 10 am to 10.30 am, for recovery of Rs. 26,95,421/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Twenty One Only) in Loan Account No. FEDDKRSTL0495020 as on 31/01/2025 with interest and expenses thereon from 01/02/2025 due to Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Secured Creditor, from Devaraja, N. S/o Narayanappa (Borrower); Narayanamma, W/o Narayanappa (Co-Borrower).

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.30, Khatha No.59, Shivanapura Village, Shivanapura Mandala Panchayath limits, Nandagudi Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, measuring East to West : 30 feet and North to South : 40 feet.

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.31, Khatha No.233, Shivanapura Village, Shivanapura Mandala Panchayath limits, Nandagudi Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, measuring East to West : 40 feet and North to South : 30 feet.

RESERVE PRICE (IN RS.)	Rs. 38,97,600/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred Only)
EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (IN RS.) THROUGH DD/PO/RTGS IN FAVOR OF 'FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED'	Rs. 3,89,760/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Only)
BID INCREMENTAL AMOUNT	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only)
LAST DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS WITH SEALED OFFER/TENDER WITH EMD	Ull 21 st March, 2025 latest by 05:00 P.M. at – Fedbank Financial Services Limited, Jellita Towers 21/1 3 rd Floor, Mission Road, Bangalore – 560027
INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES	19 th March, 2025 Before 5 PM
LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF 25% OF ACCEPTED HIGHEST BID FOR CONFIRMED SUCCESSFUL BIDDER (INCLUSIVE OF EMD)	The payment should be made latest by next working day from the date of bid confirmation
LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT OF BALANCE 75% OF HIGHEST BID	Within 15 days from the date of bid Confirmation

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Fedbank Financial Services Limited (FEDFINA) Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.fedfina.com & Link <https://www.fedfina.com/public-notice-for-auction-cum-sale> under Auction For any enquiry, information, support, procedure and training kindly coordinate with Authorised Officer of Fedbank Financial Services Limited i/s are Mr. Bharath Kumar A – 968622280, Email id- bharathkumar.a@fedfina.com.

Date: 17/02/2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- (Authorised Officer)
Fedbank Financial Services Limited

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O&M Zone, Vidyuth Bhavan', M.R.S., Shivamogga - 577 203.
Phone: 08182-220445, 220446 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

Ref No: CEE/SZ/SMG/EE(C)/AE(C)/F-Tenders/2024-25/CYS-46 Dated: 02.01.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Mode only)

MESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement mode only from the Registered KPWD contractors having EPF, ESI, GST and Labour department Registration for civil works listed below.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Name of the Work
1	MESCOM/2024- 25/ OW/WORK INDENT257	Providing Repair and Maintenance to 1 block 4 LM Quarters at R G Road Colony Chikkamagaluru (22, 23, 24 & 25)
2	MESCOM/2024- 25/ OW/WORK INDENT258	Providing Repair and Maintenance to 1 block 4 LM Quarters at R G Road Colony Chikkamagaluru (QL- 15, 16, 17 & 18)
3	MESCOM/2024- 25/ OW/WORK INDENT259	Providing Repair and maintenance to Sub-division Office building at Shiralakoppa
4	MESCOM/2024- 25/ OW/WORK INDENT260	Providing Repair and maintenance to Division Office building at Sagara

For detailed information and to participate in the tender through e-procurement mode please access the tendering website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 18.02.2025. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

DIPR/MNG/1399/ MPL/24-25 Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.) O&M Zone, Shivamogga
For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING
INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to Inform the general public that, we 1.Smt.C.Vijayamba, 2.Smt.C.Vimalamba 3.Smt.C.Meenukumari, 4.Smt.C.Vishalakshi 5.Smt.C.Rajeshwari, All D/o. Sri. Late Chikkaaveerabhadrapa, 6.Sri. Late Chikkaaveerabhadrapa S/o. Late Chikkaaveerabhadrapa, 7.Smt.Veendramma W/o. Sri. Late Chikkaaveerabhadrapa, all residing at Shanthenagar, Ward No.22, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore- 562110 are the true and lawful owners in possession of the property described in the Schedule Properties mentioned below. That, we had entered into registered sale deeds dated 11.08.2023 and registered on 14.08.2023, Agreement of sale dated 14.08.2023 and registered on 15.08.2023 and MOU with respect to the Schedule Properties with M/s. INSPIRA SPRINGS LLP, a limited liability partnership firm duly registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, having its registered office at #255, 36th Cross, 5th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560011, presently having its Corporate office at # 35, Ground Floor, Kasturba Cross Road, Off Lavelle Road, Bangalore - 560 001. Under the said sale deeds M/s. INSPIRA SPRINGS LLP the purchaser had issued postdated cheques towards payment of part of the sale consideration, which they were duly bound to as agreed under said deeds, however, the said post-dated cheques have dishonored on being presented by us and as also other amounts have remained unpaid which being the part sale consideration and have not been cleared till date. The said fact of dishonor of cheques has been communicated to M/s. INSPIRA SPRINGS LLP. The entire sale consideration has not been paid by the purchaser M/s. INSPIRA SPRINGS LLP for purchase of the Schedule Properties. We intend to initiate necessary legal proceeding seeking cancellation of said sale deeds with M/s. INSPIRA SPRINGS LLP with respect to the Schedule Properties. Hence, we call on the general public, third party/persons/entities enters to not to enter into any arrangement/transaction/agreement for purchase of the said lands or if any third party/persons/entities enters has purchased any portion/whole of the Schedule Properties from M/s. INSPIRA SPRINGS LLP by whatever means, they will be doing so at their own cost and consequence and we will not be held responsible for the same and it will be at their sole risk and cost.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1. All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Sy.No.3/14, measuring 2 acre 20 Guntas situated at playya Village, Kasaba Hobli Devanahalli Taluk Bangalore rural dist.

Item No.2. All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties bearing Sy.No.3/16 measuring 1 acre 39 Guntas situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk Bangalore Rural District.

Item No.3. All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties bearing Sy.No.3/18 measuring 2-00 Acres, situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk Bangalore Rural District.

Item No.4. All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties bearing Sy.No.3/19 measuring 2-00 Acres situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli Devanahalli Taluk Bangalore Rural District.

Item No.5. All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties bearing Sy.No.3/26 measuring, 2-00 Acres all situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District.

Item No.6. All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties bearing Sy.No.3/13 measuring, 2-00 Acres all situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District which is duly converted from agricultural land to non agricultural purpose vide official Memorandum bearing ALN(Ds) SR: 180/1987-96 dated 08.09.2005 issued by Deputy commissioner Bangalore Rural District and bounded on:- EAST BY : Land in Sy.No.3/27, WEST BY : ROAD, NORTH BY : Land in Sy.No.3/6, SOUTH BY : Private Property.

Item No.7. All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural Dry Land being eastern portion bearing Sy.No.3/10 measuring, 1-00 Acres all situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District and bounded on:- EAST BY : Remaining portion of Land in same Sy.No.3/10 (i.e. Item No.8 of the of the Schedule property herein), WEST BY : Land in Sy.No.3/6 & Sy.No.3/13, NORTH BY : Land in Sy.No.3/26 & Sy.No.3/13, SOUTH BY : Land in Sy.No.3/27 & Sy.No.3/15.

Item No.8. All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural Dry Land being western portion bearing Sy.No.3/10 measuring, 1-00 Acres all situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District and bounded on:- EAST BY : Land in Sy.No.3/22 & Sy.No.3/15, WEST BY : Remaining portion of Land in same Sy.No.3/10 (i.e. Item No.7 of the of the Schedule property herein), NORTH BY : Land in Sy.No.3/26 & Sy.No.3/13, SOUTH BY : Land in Sy.No.3/27 & Sy.No.3/15.

Item No.9. All that piece and parcel of the undeveloped agricultural land bearing Sy.No.3/13 measuring, 1-30 Acres all situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District and bounded on:- EAST BY : Land in Sy.No.3/26 & Sy.No.3/10, WEST BY : Land in Sy.No.3/5, Sy.No.3/28 & Sy.No.3/13, NORTH BY : Land in Sy.No.3/1, SOUTH BY : Land in Sy.No.3/10.

Item No.10. All that piece and parcel of the developed agricultural land bearing Sy.No.3/20 measuring, 2-00 Acres all situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District and bounded on:- EAST BY : Private Property, WEST BY : Land in Sy.No.3/22, NORTH BY : Land in Sy.No.3/16 & Sy.No.3/17, SOUTH BY : Land in Sy.No.3/21.

Item No.11. All that piece and parcel of the developed agricultural land bearing Sy.No.15/2 (Old Sy.No.15) measuring, 2 Acres 29 Guntas situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District and bounded on:- EAST BY : Property in Sy.No.3/13, WEST BY : Property in Sy.No.15/1, NORTH BY : Property in Sy.No.3/22 & Sy.No.3/21, SOUTH BY : Property in Sy.No.16, Sy.No.17 & Sy.No.14.

Item No.12. All that piece and parcel of the developed agricultural land bearing Sy.No.16/2 (Old Sy.No.16) measuring, 2 Acres 29 Guntas situated at Palaya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore rural District and bounded on:- EAST BY : Property in Sy.No.15, SOUTH BY : Property in Sy.No.16/1 & Sy.No.18, NORTH BY : Property in Sy.No.15, SOUTH BY : Property in Sy.No.17 & Sy.No.18.

RAJASHEKARA, Mobile: 98441 59472

Public Notice

My Client is intending to purchase schedule property from Sri.Sreenatha Reddy G T aged about 44 years S/o. Mr. Thimma Reddy, Residing at No.59, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Mithru Layout, Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore - 560064.

This notice is hereby given for the information of General Public that any person/persons or Banks or Financial institutions having any right, title, interest or claim against the schedule property, may contact with documentary proof in support of his/her/their claim. If no claim is lodged with us within the said period of 15 days from this date of publication, it shall be presumed by my client that no one has any claim against the schedule property.

Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing site No. 28, old khatha No. 505, BBMP khatha No.88/48-28, layout formed in survey No.48 of Doddabettahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently Yelahanka Taluk, the layout known as "Kaveri Layout", presently comes under the revenue administrative Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No. 3, Bangalore - 560097, site measuring East to West - 30 feet and North to South - 50 feet total admeasuring 1500 Sft. Consisting of old house. Bounded on East By: Site No.29; West By: Site No.27; North By: Road; South By: Private Property.

Date: 15-02-2025 Place: Bangalore

Sd/- P. Narasimhaiah, B.A. LL.B, Advocate,
No.1, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram,
Bangalore - 560005. Ph: 080-2334346/1/
23343467 Mob : 9448273366.
Mail: p.narasimhaiah@yahoo.co.in
Web: pnarasimhaiah-advocate.com

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

REGIONAL OFFICE SOUTH BENGALURU

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on “As is where is”, “As is what is”, and “Whatever there is” basis 05.03.2025 from 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. [with unlimited extension of 5 minutes duration each till the conclusion of sale], for recovery of below mentioned amount. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Assets/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below –

Sl. No.	1.Name of the borrower 2.Name of the Branch	Description of the Property	Total Dues	Date & Time of Auction	Reserve Price EMD Amount Increment amount	Contact Person
1	1.Mr. Arifulla 2.Branch : Padmanabhanagar - II #3, Puttalingaiah Road, Opp.D G Hospital, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru-70 email:cb10676@canarabank.com	Apartment bearing Flat No. G-02, Ground Floor, B Block, "Astoria Park" Apartment located in Property bearing Sy. No. 135, Situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District- 560100, East : Land No. Sy. No. 44 & 45, West : Road, North : Road, South : Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 136	Rs. 59,78,767.78 (Rupees Fifty nine lakhs seventy eight thousand seven hundred sixty seven and Paise seventy eight Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.02.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs. 43.60 Lacs Rs. 4.36 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Mr. Kavalakuntla Prasanna Manager, Ph:8371603904-080-26691826
2	1.Mr. Sakthivel Natarajan. 2.Branch : Padmanabhanagar - II #3, Puttalingaiah Road, Opp.D G Hospital, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru-70 email:cb10676@canarabank.com	1. Apartment bearing Flat No. C-04, Ground Floor, C Block, "KINGS SQUARE" Apartment located in Property bearing Sy. No. 189, Situated at Kodathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District- 560035, East : Land belongs to Shivanajappa Sy. No. 168, West : Property of Shivananumanthappa in Sy. No. 190, North : Land Belongs to Krishna Reddy in Sy. No. 192, South : 40 ft road thereafter Sy. No. 79. 2. Apartment bearing Flat No. B-04, Ground Floor, B Block, "KINGS SQUARE" Apartment located in Property bearing Sy. No. 189, Situated at Kodathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District- 560035, East : Land belongs to Shivanajappa Sy. No. 188, West : Property of Shivananumanthappa in Sy. No. 190, North : Land Belongs to Krishna Reddy in Sy. No. 192, South : 40 ft road thereafter Sy. No. 79.	Rs. 88,57,972.32 (Rupees Eighty eight lakhs fifty seven thousand nine hundred seventy two and Paise thirty two Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.02.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs. 33.80 Lacs Rs. 3.38 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Mr. Kavalakuntla Prasanna Manager, Ph:8371603904-080-26691826
3	1.Mr. Sarvanna V. 2.Branch : Padmanabhanagar - II #3, Puttalingaiah Road, Opp.D G Hospital, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru-70 email:cb10676@canarabank.com	Apartment bearing Flat No.202, Second Floor, C Block, "Astoria Park" Apartment located in Property bearing Sy.No.135, Situated at Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District - 560100, East : Land No. Sy. No. 44 & 45, West : Road, North : Road, South : Remaining Portion of Sy. No. 136	Rs. 73.55,243.44 (Rupees Seventy three lakhs fifty five thousand two hundred forty three and Paise forty four Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.02.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs. 47.70 Lacs Rs. 4.77 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Mr. Kavalakuntla Prasanna Manager, Ph:8371603904-080-26691826
4	1.Mr. Balaji N 2.Branch : Devagiri BSK II 507, 9th Main, Banashankari II Stage, Bengaluru - 560 070 Email: cb10478@canarabank.com	Apartment bearing Flat No. 406, Forth Floor, D Block, "Roshan Platinum" Apartment located in Property bearing No. 1337, Sy. No. 83/1 & 83/2, Situated at Arekere Village, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District- 560076, East : Flat No. 407, West : Flat No. 406, North : Entrance/ Corridor South : Open to sky.	Rs. 1,42,07,206.97/- (Rupees One Crore forty two lakhs seven thousand two hundred six and Paise ninety seven Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.02.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs.116.91 Lacs Rs.11.691 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Mr. Kavalakuntla Prasanna Manager, Ph:8371603904-080-26691826
5	1.Mr. Srikanth Maganti. 2.Branch : Devagiri BSK II 507, 9th Main, Banashankari II Stage, Bengaluru - 560 070 Email: cb10478@canarabank.com	Apartment bearing Flat No. 709, Seventh Floor, D Block, "Roshan Platinum" Apartment located in Property bearing No. 1337, Sy. No. 83/1 & 83/2, Situated at Arekere Village, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District- 560076, East : Residential Flat., flat no. not mentioned, West : Open to sky North : Open to sky, South : Entrance/ corridor	Rs. 1,23,92,605.19/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Three lakhs ninety two thousand six hundred five and Paise Nineteen Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.02.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs.106.20 Lacs Rs.10.62 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Mr. Santosh T. P. Senior Manager, Ph:9739461441-080-26715520
6	1.Mr. Badni Vijayakumar 2.Branch : Devagiri BSK II 507, 9th Main, Banashankari II Stage, Bengaluru - 560 070 Email: cb10478@canarabank.com	Apartment bearing Flat No. 4012, Fourth Floor, A Block, "Roshan Gardenia" Apartment located in Property bearing 1373, Sy. No. 95/2, 95/3, 36th Main Road, Subramanyapura, Poornapragna Layout, Off Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District- 560 061 East : Flat No. 4013, West : Staircase/ Lift & Then Flat No. 4011, North : Entrance/ corridor South : Open to sky	Rs. 97,54,430.50/- (Rupees Ninety seven lakhs fifty four thousand four hundred thirty and Paise Fifty Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.02.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs.70.55 Lacs Rs.7.06 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Mr. Santosh T. P. Senior Manager, Ph:9739461441-080-26715520
7	1.Mr. J. Mohan Kumar 2.Branch : Jayanagar BSNL Complex Branch, # 309, 25th Cross Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 041 Email: cb10474@canarabank.com	Apartment bearing Flat No. 2009, First Floor, "Roshan Gardenia Apartment" situated at Property bearing No. 1373, Sy. No. 95/2, 95/3, 36th Cross Road, Adjacent to Poorna Prajna Layout, Uttarahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk - 560 061. East : Corridor & Flat No. 2024, West : Open Space, North Flat No. 2006, South : Flat No. 2010.	Rs. 1,93,64,576.35 (Rupees One crores Nine Three lakhs Sixty four thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six and Thirty Five Paise Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.02.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs.70.10 Lacs Rs.7.01 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Sri Murari Kumar Jha Senior Manager, Ph:9449860073 080-22440401
8	1.Mr. Vikas Govil. 2.Branch : Banashankari II Stage Branch, Branch, # 24/25, Sevaksheetra Complex, 27th Cross Road, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 070 Email: cb1147@canarabank.com	Residential Flat No. G-02, Ground Floor, "Karishma Classic" Sy. No. 37/2, Katha No. 573/372, Situated at Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore - 560 061, bounded by : East : Road, West: Road, North : Remaining portion of same Sy. No. 37/2 & 37/1, South : Road.	Rs.84,50,419.40 (Rupees Eighty four lakhs fifty thousand four hundred nineteen and forty Paise Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.02.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs.58.53 Lacs Rs.5.853 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Sri Deepak Kumar Chief Manager, Ph:7070110456 080-26718241
9	1.Mr. Jiss George 2.Branch : Jayanagar Shopping Complex Branch, # 155 (52) 9th Main Road, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bengaluru - 560 011 Email: cb0408@canarabank.com	Residential Flat bearing No. 307, Third Floor, Midhila Deluxe Apartment, 6th Cross, 1st Main Road, Near R. V. Kalyana Mantapa, Maruthi Nagar, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064, Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.	Rs.1,33,17,985.27 (Rupees One Crore thirty three lakhs seventeen thousand nine Hundred eighty five and twenty seven Paise Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.12.2024 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs.64.05 Lacs Rs.6.405 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Smt. Meetasree Dutta Chief Manager, Ph:9483540408 080-26650500
10	1.M/s A. Manoj Enterprises. 2.Branch : Jayanagar Shopping Complex Branch, # 155 (52) 9th Main Road, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bengaluru - 560 011 Email: cb0408@canarabank.com	1. Vacant Residential plot at Site No. 226, Woods Ville Layout, Sy. No. 30/2, M Medahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District (Property in the name of Arul Manikam), Extent : 1500 sq.ft. Bounded by : East : Vacant Plot, West: Road, North : Vacant Plot, South : Vacant Plot. 2. Vacant Residential plot at Site No. 227, Woods Ville Layout, Sy. No. 30/2, M Medahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District (Property in the name of Arul Manikam), Extent : 1500 sq.ft. Bounded by : East : Vacant Plot, West: Road, North : Vacant Plot, South : Vacant Plot.	Rs.93,54,446.63 (Rupees Ninety three lakhs fifty four thousand four Hundred forty six and sixty three Paise Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.02.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs. 17.55 Lacs Rs.1.755 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Smt. Meetasree Dutta Chief Manager, Ph:9483540408 080-26650500
11	1.Lokesh C 2.Branch : Bilekahalli (VijayaBank Layout) G-02 , Arvind's Sharavathi, 80 Feet Road, Bilekahalli, Vijaya Bank Layout, Off: Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 076 Email: cb10754@canarabank.com	Southern Portion of Property No. 344/93, Vasanthapura Main Road, Vasanthapura Village, Subramanyapura Post, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk - 560 061, Near Sai Baba Temple, Extent : 108/5 sq.ft. bounded by : East : Passage & then residential building, West : Residential building, North : 4 Floor residential building & then Vasanthapura Main Road, South : Passage & then residential building.	Rs.7,42,695.75 (Rupees Seven lakhs forty two thousand six hundred ninety five and seventy five Paise Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.01.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs. 68.00 Lacs Rs.6.80Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Arti Kumari Senior Manager, Ph:7039831841 080-26631598
12	1.Mrs.Madhuramma 2.Branch : Bilekahalli (VijayaBank Layout) G-02 , Arvind's Sharavathi, 80 Feet Road, Bilekahalli, Vijaya Bank Layout, Off: Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 076 Email: cb10754@canarabank.com	Property bearing No. 126, Indirapriyadarshini Colony, Near Old Government School, Arekere Main Road, B. G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 076, Bounded by : East : Residential Building, West : Road, North : Residential Building, South : Road.	Rs.5,71,996.76 (Rupees Five lakhs seventy one thousand nine hundred ninety six and seventy six Paise Only) plus further interest thereon from 01.01.2025 and other expenses	05.03.2025 between 11.30 a.m. to 12.30 PM	Rs.30.60 Lacs Rs.3.06 Lacs Rs. 1.00 Lacs	Arti Kumari Senior Manager, Ph:7039831841 080-26631598

The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer. Known encumbrances, if any: NIL. The EMD should be deposited on or before 04.03.2025 up to 4.00 pm. The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.canarabank.com/english/announcements/sale-notice/karnataka/> provided on the Secured Creditors' Website i.e. www.canarabank.com, or may contact above mentioned branches during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 14.02.2025

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
Canara Bank

Can Fin Homes Ltd
No. 414, Pooja Complex, Old Madras Road, K R Puram, Bangalore - 560036, Tel No. 080-25619333/ 7625079185.
Email Id: krpuram@canfinhomes.com
CIN No: L85110KA1987PLC008699

K R Puram Branch

APPENDIX- IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., K R Puram Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 25-03-2025 for recovery of Rs. 60,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from Mr.Srinivas S and Mrs.Vanishree S (Borrowers) and Mrs.Shashi Karthikeyan (Guarantors), as on 17-02-2025, together with further interest and other charges thereon. The reserve price will be Rs. 60,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs.6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Only)

Description of the Immovable Property

SCHEDULE 'A' Property : All That Piece And Parcel Of An Immovable Property Bearing BDA Site No.12, Formed In Land Bearing Survey No.85 And 86 Uttarahalli Village, In Layout Formed And Developed By Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore Situated at Banashankari 5th Stage, Bangalore, Presently within the Limits of BBMP Ward No.184, Vide Bmp Municipal Katha No.12/12 Measuring East To West 18.28 Meters And North To South 12.19 Meters In All 222.83 Sq Meters And Bounded As Follows:- East By : Sites Formed By Bharath HBSC, West By : Road, North By: Site No.11, South By: Site No.13

SCHEDULE 'B' Property : (Description of the Undivided interest in the land herein) 324 Sq. Ft Undivided share, right, title and interest in the land comprised in the schedule 'A' property.

SCHEDULE 'C' Property : All that piece and parcel of Three bed room residential apartment Flat bearing No.GF001, in the Residential apartment building known as "SRI SAI HOMES" with super built up area of 1250 Sq Ft with verified flooring with one car parking in the still floor including water, electricity and sewerage amenities together with common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, stair case and other areas of common use and bounded as follows:- East by : Flat No.GF 002, West By : Road, North By: Common Corridor, South By: Private Property

Encumbrances : Nil

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (<https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx>). Link for participating in e-auction : <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>

Place: K. R. Puram
Date: 17.02.2025

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.,

Can Fin Homes Ltd
No. 414, Pooja Complex, Old Madras Road, K R Puram, Bangalore - 560036, Tel No. 080-25619333/ 7625079185.
Email Id: krpuram@canfinhomes.com
CIN No: L85110KA1987PLC008699

K R Puram Branch

APPENDIX- IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

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Description of the Immovable Property

SCHEDULE 'A' Property : All That Piece And Parcel Of An Immovable Property Bearing Sy No.86 (totally Measuring 5 Acres And 21 Guntas) And Converted Vide Official Memorandum Bearing No.aln(a) (K&A) Sr:56/ 05-06 C/W 59,60,61,79,81,82,108,109,110/05-06 Dated:29/03/2006, Issued By The Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District, Bangalore, And Approved By STTR Planning Authority Vide STTRPA/TP/LAQ/58/2017-18, Dated:11-03-2019 And Situated At Indlaele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore, Together With All Appurtenances Whatsoever Whether Underneath Or Above The Surface And Bounded On The East By : Land Bearing Sy.No.87, And Remaining Portion Of Sy No.86, West By : Land Bearing Sy.No.85, North By: Land Bearing Sy.No.99, South By: Land Bearing Sy.No.77 And 78.

Schedule 'B' Property : All That Piece And Parcel Of An Immovable Property Bearing site No.9, Carved out of Land Bearing Sy.No.86, Situated At "Liberty Acres Phase IV" (Golden Homes Phase Iv), Indlaele Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, Measuring East To West 74.05 Feet And North To South 30.35 Feet In All 2248 Sq Feet And Any Building Construction There On And Bounded



Tirumala to get a ₹12cr biogas plant, ops to begin in July

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Tirumala

THE Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is set to begin compressed biogas (CBG) production in Tirumala by August, using food waste generated by the Mathrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Nithya Anna Prasadam Complex and other TTD-run establishments. The project, which aims to produce 1,500 kg of biogas per day, will address both waste management and energy needs.

The biogas plant, currently under construction at Kakula Thippa, will be capable of processing 50 tonnes of food and wet waste daily. The total cost for establishing the plant is ₹12 crore, with TTD contributing ₹5.85 crore and Indian Oil Corporation Limited providing the remaining ₹6 crore through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The Central government had assigned IOCL to assess the energy potential from Tirumala's waste, and it was determined that biogas generation could reach 1,500 kg per day. It is worth noting that the daily gas requirement for TTD institutions in Tirumala is between 3,500 and 4,500 kg.

Previously, private companies, including Mahindra & Mahindra, converted this waste into manure at a cost of ₹1,450 per metric tonne.

TTD is expected to save around ₹53 lakh annually from wet waste processing. Furthermore, it will reduce LPG procurement costs, saving ₹2.3 crore per year. This brings the total estimated annual savings to ₹2.85 crore. With these savings, TTD is projected to recover its investment within two to three years.

Edu dept takes steps to shut liquor stores near schools

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga/Davanagere

AS per the directions of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the Karnataka High Court the department of the school education has issued a circular to all its education districts directing it to find any schools situated within the vicinity of the liquor shops.

It states that, if there are any liquor shops near schools/colleges and causes problems in education and management, the concerned educational institutions have been asked to file a complaint with the Excise Department and action will be taken in this regard

TN parties united in opposing 3-language policy, slam Centre

Stalin accuses Pradhan of 'blackmail'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

CUTTING across political divide, all major parties in Tamil Nadu slammed Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday for saying that Tamil Nadu would not be provided funds under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan till it accepts the National Education Policy (NEP) and the three-language formula.

Tagging a video clip of Pradhan speaking to reporters in Varanasi on February 15, Chief Minister M K Stalin accused Pradhan of "blackmail" and challenged him to show the constitutional provision that mandates compliance with the three-language policy. "The state is seeking funds from the centre which is its rightful due and if the central minister speaks arrogantly, as if the state claimed his personal wealth, then Delhi may have to see the real trait of the Tamil people," the CM said. AIADMK, the main opposition party, Congress, NTK, PMK, DMDK and TVK, too, reacted strongly to

the minister's statement.

Stalin emphasised that the Indian Union is made up of states and asserted that the union government is not the sole authority on the subject matter of education, which falls under the Concurrent List.

AIADMK leader D Jayakumar reaffirmed the party's opposition to imposition of Hindi in any form in the state under the National Education Policy.

TN Congress president K Selvarajunthaga accused the BJP-led central government of acting with bias against opposition-ruled states. He recalled that though Navodaya schools were rejected by Tamil Nadu due to the three-language policy, the union government still released funds to the state without any vendetta. TVK leader Vijay said imposing the three-language policy on Tamil Nadu amounts to robbing the state of its autonomy. PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss reminded the central government of TN's 80-year-long history of resistance against Hindi imposition.

Tharoor acknowledges UDF govts' contributions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ T'Puram

FACING backlash from his party for praising LDF-ruled Kerala, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Sunday stuck to his stance but attempted a balancing act by acknowledging the contributions of the previous Congress-led governments in the state's industrial sector.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Tharoor clarified that he has always stood for development and investment in the state. "Critics who want me to correct

my stance should point out the mistake in my article," he said. In a Facebook post earlier in the day, Tharoor said the controversy over his article has left him "surprised" as he had stated his views as an MP only on the "change in the state's industrial climate owing to the growth of start-ups".

In a bid to assuage the ruffled feathers of the Congress leadership, the four-time MP said he was proud to say that it was former chief minister Oommen Chandy who paved the way for such a transformation.

"It was owing to the creation of the Startup Mission and Startup Village by former CM Oommen Chandy that such developments happened. The current government has naturally taken it forward," Tharoor said in the FB post. In another FB post, Tharoor acknowledged the contributions of former industries minister and IUM leader P K Kunhalikutty, gauging the UDF alliance partner's resentment over his remarks. "It was during the tenure of former

chief minister A K Antony that a first-of-its-kind Global Investment Meet was held in the state under the leadership of the then Industries Minister P K Kunhalikutty," Tharoor said.

In his column in *TNIE*, Tharoor said Kerala has emerged as a dynamic centre for startups. He lauded the state's establishment of 2.9 lakh MSMEs under the government's Year of Enterprise programme.



BULL HEADED

A Jallikattu event under way at Alagumalai in Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu on Sunday. Around 800 bulls and 600 bull tamers participated from different parts of Tamil Nadu | EXPRESS

Third maternal death in Ballari in 15 days

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @Ballari

IN yet another case of maternal death reported from Ballari district, a 25-year-old new mother, Gangamma from Kakkabevanalli village in Ballari taluk, died on February 14. Gangamma gave birth to a baby boy on January 6 and developed variations in her health following which she was admitted to Ballari Institute of Medical Sciences (BIMS). After recovering a little, she was shifted to the district hospital where she died on February 14.

Sources said that this is the third maternal death within a span of 15 days in Ballari district. In all the three deaths, the deceased were not admitted as high-risk pregnancy cases, it is said. Hospital authorities said a 23-year-old patient from Siruguppa taluk died after giving birth due to a panic attack. However, her relatives alleged negligence by doctors as the cause for her death.

Venkatesh Reddy, a social activist in Ballari, said maternal deaths in Ballari district are continuing and doctors should take responsibility for the deaths. "From February 1 to 14, three new mothers died and in all three cases, the patients were not admitted as high-risk pregnancy cases. The district administration has announced many programmes like social media awareness, labour room visits and counselling with noted doctors to reduce maternal deaths. The BIMS administration seems to have totally failed and negligence on the part of doctors cannot be ruled out. Proper and timely treatment can save lives of patients," he said.

It may be recalled here that five maternal deaths were reported within a span of one month last November. The deaths allegedly took place after the patients were administered a banned IV glucose.

Hampi Utsav to host vintage car rally

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@ Hosapete

THE Vijayanagara district administration is leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that the three-day Hampi Utsav 2025 turns out to be a huge success.

As added attractions, the organisers have decided to include adventure shows like sports bike stunts and vintage car rally to entertain the visitors. Vijayanagara Deputy Commissioner M S Divakar and his team are regularly visiting Hampi and inspecting the ongoing preparatory work. A senior official said that in association with a private motor company, the district administration has decided to host bike stunt show this year. If everything goes as per the plans, noted bike stunt performers from international, national and state level will take part in the event.

Besides 'Hampi By Sky', various entertainment and cultural programmes will be organised like every year, he said. "We are planning to hold the bike stunt shows on March 1 and 2. There are plans to also include boating and water adventure sports at Kamalapur lake," he added. The utsav, to be held from February 28 to March 2, will be inaugurated by CM Siddaramaiah.

Stalin calls blocking of Vikatan site 'undemocratic'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

AMID complaints from readers regarding difficulty in accessing the website of Tamil magazine Vikatan for the second day on Sunday, Chief Minister M K Stalin and several other leaders condemned the alleged 'blocking' of the website, and urged the union government to restore the access immediately. In a social media post, Stalin said, "Shutting down media platforms for their opinions is against the principles of democracy. This is yet another example of the

BJP's fascist tendencies. Vikatan has been a pillar of journalism for over a century. I urge the authorities to immediately restore access to the blocked website."

The 'technical trouble' for the magazine started after Tamil Nadu BJP president Annamalai on February 15 wrote to Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan seeking action against Vikatan for its 'cover picture aimed at defaming

PM Modi". He had also explained the cartoon's features and termed it offensive.

The magazine, late on Saturday, had said in a social media post that there have been numerous reports stating that

its website has been blocked by the central government. "Many users from different locations have reported that they are unable to access the Vikatan website. However, as of now, there has been no official announcement from the central government regarding the blocking of the Vikatan website," the statement said. On Sunday, in a post on 'X', Vikatan provided an alternative link to its website.

A cartoon published on February 10 on the magazine's site depicted Prime Minister Narendra Modi in chains alongside US President Donald Trump referring to the former's silence on the issue of undocumented Indian immigrants being deported to India by the US in handcuffs.

VCK president and Chidambaram MP Thol Thirumavalavan said blocking of

websites must be done in compliance with Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, and the IT (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking) Rules, 2009. He pointed out that blocking of Vikatan's portal did not follow due process, making it unlawful. "The block is an attack on press freedom and democratic values," he said, urging the Union Ministry of Information Technology to revoke it immediately.

TVK leader Vijay, MDMK general secretary Vaiko, CPM state secretary P Shanmugam and other leaders also condemned the move.

EXPRESS READ

Don't use one-phase power for pumpsets: Bescom

BENGALURU: In the wake of increasing power demand and rising summer heat, officials of Bangalore Electricity Supply Corporation Limited have appealed to farmers not to use single-phase power for irrigation pumpsets for agriculture. The state government has committed to provide three-phase power to agricultural pumpsets for four hours in a day and three hours at night and further 24-hour power supply to rural households through Nirantara Jyothi Feeders (NJY), said the officials. "Bescom has appealed to farmers not to use single-phase pumpsets during this period (6 pm to 6 am)," said an official release.

Kerala schools to have anti-ragging cells

KOCHI : The general education department has decided to form anti-ragging cells in every school in the state following reports of ragging emerging from some of the schools. "Incidents like ragging, which are not conducive to the welfare of society, are taking place in some educational institutions in the state," General Education Minister V Sivankutty said on Sunday, speaking at the Kerala School Teachers' Association (KSTA) state conference held in Kozhikode. The minister said to prevent ragging strict measures need to be taken along with organising awareness activities and grassroots-level interventions.

TRASH TO TREASURE

Your chips packets can be used to build a house!

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

WHILE many of us toss aside plastic packets after munching on chips or biscuits, a Bengaluru-based start-up, Unified Intelligence Private Limited, is transforming these multi-layered plastic packets into sustainable building materials. The company collects plastic waste and turns it into bricks, wall panels, and even houses, offering an innovative solution to plastic pollution.

Plastic, especially multi-layered packaging, is known for being difficult to recycle due to its volume and low intensity. It is challenging to separate and process, making it not a viable option for most recycling efforts economically.

"You need a lot of plastic packets to make even one kilo-



Unified Intelligence Private Limited collects plastic and turns it into bricks, wall panels and houses | EXPRESS



company.

Plastic's main problem is that it does not react with nature, but this also makes it ideal for building material because it does not absorb water and is resistant to decay, she added.

The process involves shredding, cleaning, and compressing the plastic waste at low tem-

peratures. The material then fuses into dense, durable sheets that are used to create honeycomb-like wall panels. These panels, each measuring eight feet by four feet, costs Rs 10,000 for each unit and are highly durable and can be assembled on-site to build structures like a 2-bedroom house in just seven days, even in heavy rain.

"The company is currently working with waste collectors to gather plastic waste, but challenges remain in ensuring widespread recycling," Sushma told *TNIE*, adding that they still need greater demand to make the recycling loop complete. The company, operating from Horamavu, plans to set up local collection hubs and empower entrepreneurs within those communities to increase plastic recycling at scale.

Thrissur daylight bank robbery: Man arrested

THRISSUR: After more than 48 hours of the incident, police on Sunday arrested the suspect in the looting of a bank at Potta in Chalakudy. The suspect is Rijo Antony, from Asharippara in Chalakudy and an account holder of the same bank. The incident happened at around 2.15 pm on Friday at Federal bank branch in Chalakudy. The suspect came in a scooter and threatened the bank staff using a kitchen knife. The entire robbery was done in less than 3 minutes, shocking the police and the locals simultaneously. Rijo's wife is a nurse in Kuwait. The couple have two school going kids and the family moved to Chalakudy two years ago.

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN
INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

INDIA-US TIES: PLAYING THE TRUMP CARD WITH PRAGMATIC REALISM

AFTER the Prime Ministers of Israel and Japan and the King of Jordan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the fourth world leader Donald Trump hosted at the White House since becoming president. Soon after the president announced reciprocal tariffs, Modi and Trump spent four hours together in various engagements, showcasing strong personal chemistry, with discussions and outcomes reflecting a clear US shift towards a more transactional tone in ties. Although Trump, consistent with his persona, often evaluated matters through the lens of dollars, he was still mindful of the significance of the India-US relationship.

Endlessly stressing a stronger Trump is upending everything would be a mere truism. India's true challenge is to strategically align its interests with the evolving landscape of American economic and foreign policy, ensuring it remains relevant in a changing global order where Trump no longer seems to be seeing the US as the lynchpin it has been from the post-war period. India need not fret over the world order Trump is disrupting, as the Euro-American-centric system holds little value for nations like us, misaligned with the modern world's realities.

India should cautiously approach Trump's policies on trade and tariffs, requiring sensitive negotiations, despite New Delhi announcing talks for a bilateral trade deal and setting an ambitious bilateral trade target of \$500 billion by 2030. As the US imposes tariffs on trading partners globally, including India, retaliation may not be limited to tit-for-tat duties. Other countries could reduce their reliance on the US dollar or take action in the Treasury market, which could also impact the US economy. Emerging Asian economies, with their relatively higher tariff rates on US exports, are especially vulnerable to increased reciprocal tariffs, which could significantly impact their economies. These nations will seek to negotiate space to mitigate the effects. For instance, India's leading importers of liquefied natural gas are already negotiating more US fuel purchases to address the trade deficit, while further cuts in American goods tariff are likely. The "buy more from us" policy offers India a chance to deepen cooperation in critical technologies, which could enhance its defence, and space manufacturing capabilities. The real challenge, however, will be how the "Make in America" and "Make in India" policies coexist. Finding common ground between the two will be the ultimate test.

KERALA'S WELCOME MOVE ON PRIVATE VARSITIES

THE decision to allow private universities in Kerala is a significant policy shift for the state government and a complete U-turn for the CPI (M). However, the volte-face could benefit the state and be seen as a sign of changing times and policies. The CPI (M) vehemently opposed opening up the higher education sector in the past, often resorting to violence to resist attempts to "privatise" education. In 1994, five workers of CPI (M)'s youth wing, DYFI, died in police firing at Kannur's Koothuparamba while protesting against the then Congress-led government's education policies. One injured worker remained bedridden for 30 years till his death in 2024, and was celebrated as a living martyr and a symbol of the party's stand against the privatisation of education. In 2016, CPM's student wing SFI manhandled the vice-chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, T P Sreenivasan, at the 'Global Education Meet' held at Kovalam to protest what it called an attempt to "commercialise higher education".

Against this backdrop, the Pinarayi Vijayan government has bravely rolled out the red carpet for private universities, overcoming stiff resistance within the CPI (M) and the ruling front. The government may soon table a draft bill that the cabinet approved last week. It is a fact that while Kerala has made laudable strides in most spheres, it has remained significantly behind several states in higher education, primarily due to its inexplicable conservatism towards changes in the sector. The quality of higher education is the primary reason for the alarming outflow of students from the state. This reality prompted the government to see logic in opening up the sector, though the move has come at least two decades behind its time.

Defending the decision, the chief minister said it aligns with the Kerala development model and promised to ensure social justice. Wisdom seems to have finally dawned on the CPI (M). Changing with time is a necessity, not an option. Opening up the education sector, coupled with other reformative measures this government initiated, can be a game-changer for Kerala. However, new universities should get adequate freedom to function at their full potential and not subjected to unreasonable restrictions. The government, on its part, must remain fully committed to implementing its plans without bowing to ideological pressures and political compulsions. No half-measures will do.

QUICK TAKE

THE JENNY AND ITS WHITE GOLD

DON'T dismiss the donkey as but a beast of burden. Its partner's milk today fetches ₹5,000 a litre online. The demand is growing. People use it to treat ailments and infections. Science proves it is closest to human milk. The animal is easy to rear, adapts to any climate, needs less feed and water and leaves a lower environmental footprint. And Cleopatra knew long ago that jenny's milk made her skin soft and glowing. It is dearer because jennies give barely a litre a day. Farmers can prosper if they get professional training to rear these animals. The states must copy the Karnataka, Kerala and Gujarat models.

TO live in peninsular or south India means, for the most part, to live in a more prosperous India than the Great Indian Plain (GIP), a polite geographical name for northern and eastern India.

The peninsular states have per capita incomes (PCIs) at least double that of most GIP states. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have PCIs close to Indonesia's. But Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are poorer than Nepal. Human development—as measured by life expectancy, health, educational attainment, and poverty ratios—in the GIP is comparable to that of the poorest countries. In the peninsula, it compares favourably with upper middle-income countries.

The difference between the GIP and the peninsula is the same as between India and China. The former is only ahead of the latter in population. China and the peninsula are more advanced than India and the GIP on every other count.

This has led to talk in the peninsula about "subsidies" given by the peninsular states to the poor GIP states. To be sure, political power is vested in the GIP, and an obscurantist, Hindi-imposing nationalist government is in power at the Centre and in most of the GIP, fuelling the optics of discrimination.

The lazy ignoring of the peninsula in constituting successive finance commissions—the 15th commission had zero members from the peninsula—the increasing preponderance of senior Central government officials and armed forces chiefs from the GIP, the favouritism shown to GIP states when promoting foreign investment, and the disgraceful behaviour of GIP-born governors of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in subverting the work of duly elected state governments have further fuelled this resentment.

But the vacuity and pettiness of the Centre should not blind the peninsula to two disturbing facts. One, while inequality has stalled progress in the GIP, it poses an equal impediment to further progress in the peninsula. And two, the peninsula shares many retrograde social and low-fraternity characteristics with the GIP.

If there is a country in the world that can host a museum of inequality, it is India. Income, asset, property and inter-generational inequalities are ubiquitous across the country. The gap has increased with the nation's growth explosion and is as much a part of the India story as the boom in mutual funds.

The peninsula has not escaped this trend. The per capita income of Tamil

India's south is richer and better developed than its north. But incomes are unevenly spread in either half. Urban decay and misogyny are just as common in both

THE UNITED STATES OF INEQUALITY

RATHIN ROY

Distinguished Professor, Kautliya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad; Visiting Senior Fellow, Overseas Development Institute, London

THE PENINSULA



SOURAV ROY

Nadu is over three times Bihar's, but the average daily wages for men in agriculture are not even double that in UP and Bihar. This signals an extractive economy where the bulk of the rise in prosperity is being skimmed by the already-rich.

This is despite the fact that supposedly high manufacturing wages contribute 21 percent to TN's GDP, as opposed to 11 percent in UP. The situation is better in Kerala but the same or worse in the other peninsular states. Economic transformation has not led to an inclusive increase in prosperity.

As a result, the peninsular states suffer sharp within-state inequalities. Consider

the following information from TN's submission to the current finance commission. The average difference in the PCI of a district in TN from the average income of the state is ₹85,000, compared to just ₹15,000 in Bihar. The PCI of the poorest district is 25 percent that of the richest. Dharmapuri district in TN has a literacy rate worse than 36 districts of UP, which is three times as poor. Over 60 percent of Telangana and Karnataka's PCI is earned in just 3-4 districts of these states.

Now consider some negative things the peninsula has in common with the GIP despite being richer, healthier, better educated and more prosperous.

COUNTERING MODERN CRITIQUES OF CLASSICS

MY thoughts have been very much with our epics this week and I would like to share my understanding of a few epic incidents that I feel have been wrongly critiqued in modern India. My point is that if you put things through an ideological filter—through a sausage machine, in fact—you'll only get sausages bereft of actual context and facts.

Let us take the case of Surpanakha. Over the years, I have watched attempts to portray her as "a victim of patriarchy" and "a woman wrongfully denied her right to desire", "an outright case of misogyny", and "what does the cutting off of her nose tell you about 'heroic' men?". I found such interpretations to be most unconvincing, and they grew boring because they did not acknowledge the facts of the case on the ground.

I fail to understand how anyone could want to valourise Surpanakha, who tried to destroy Sita because she wanted Sita's men. She rushed at Sita to kill her, to get rid of her so that the obstacle to her want—or so she illogically thought—could be removed. She was struck to stop her mad rush. Wrong is plainly wrong in her case, and these 'modern' attempts to legitimise her simply do not cut the mustard.

Or are these 'counter-narratives' justifying that anyone can help themselves to other people's partners? It's called 'poaching', and most people take a dim view of it. Surpanakha, for me, is a bad character without self-restraint. And she foolishly throws herself at Rama, the ultimate embodiment of correct behaviour. Story-wise, the irony cannot escape us, reader or listener. But, seemingly devoid of a moral compass, some modern interpreters have sympathised with her as a case of 'misogyny'. Sorry, I don't buy it. Today, it seems to belong to the same mindset as that of the key figures in the ongoing obscenity scandal: 'Anything goes'.

There are indeed many problems with patriarchy's attitude to and treatment of women. Nobody can deny that. Just last week, we discussed how Bhishma's silence during the disrobing of Draupadi is a big blot on his persona. But the Constitution has made us all equal citizens with equal rights. Change is irreversible as the decades roll by. In my opinion, valourising a greedy, violent and vengeful character like Surpanakha only harms



RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

the cause; it does not help it.

Let us move on to the case of Drona and Eklavya. Here, too, the valourisation of Eklavya as a 'victim' has been much bruited in 'modern' interpretations. But what are the facts of the case? Would anyone today expect to get into IIT or IIM without proper admission? How could a teacher contracted to teach a specific group of students moonlight and set up a rival to them on the side?



WIMPIKA COMONS

Eklavya was not a poor, aspirational peasant, as has been often inaccurately portrayed. He was a prince himself, the son of King Hiranyadhanus of the Nishadas. In my view, he had no business sneaking up on Drona and putting him in such an awkward spot with his employers

Eklavya was not a poor, aspirational peasant, as some have inaccurately portrayed. He was a prince himself, the son of King Hiranyadhanus of the Nishadas. In my view, he had no business sneaking up on Drona like that and putting him in such an awkward spot with his employers. Especially a dirt-poor person like Drona, who could not afford even a drink of milk for his son Ashwatthama until he found employment.

Moreover, Drona was burned up with the desire to teach his former schoolmate, Drupada, a lesson for insulting him in public. Drona deliberately put himself in the way of the Kuru prince,

whom he discovered were in dire need of a suitable tutor in the arts of warfare. He aimed to teach his royal pupils so well that when the time came for them to give him *guru dakshina*, he could ask them to vanquish Drupada and bring him bound as a prisoner.

Drona was not only a man badly in need of a job to support his wife and son, but also one with a bitter secret mission, which had been going well. But suddenly, Eklavya threatened to bring it all crashing down. Arjuna was already pouting in displeasure, and Drona was in danger of losing his job for apparently moonlighting and teaching another person in secret.

Tell me, doesn't a teacher have rights, too? The basic right to be loyal to the terms of his employment? Was it correct on Prince Eklavya's part to do what he did? Of course, we feel very sorry that he had to lose his thumb. But in my view, Vyasa, through his stark story-telling, conveys the moral that knowledge should not be stolen, even by a prince. From Drona's perspective, would it be correct for a nuclear scientist today to secretly pass on his work to another country or let it be stolen when his legal and ethical commitment is to the country that hired him?

So, in my view, Eklavya does not deserve valourisation. I'm ready for any brickbats since I accept that sometimes it may be hard for people to reconsider an idea put so forcefully into their minds over the years.

My third case is that of Savitri. I grew up with a poor opinion of her for 'tricking' Yama. It was a snap judgment after reading flat English versions of the epics. However, a religious discourse in 2017 gave me a new perspective. When the Sanskrit was explained line by line, I learnt how very politely and steadily she engaged with Yama and won his respect and admiration. She deserved her Satyavan for her courage and intelligence. There's so much to rediscover about stories we thought we knew.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

Political theatrics

Ref: *Trumpistan: Global chaos in slow motion* (Feb 16). The article exposes the possible chaotic situation that could arise out of Trump 2.0 in an impressively poetic manner. But in politics, theatrics count and certainly taste more spicy when laced with impossible promises. It could cause global chaos only if the rest of the world is in deep slumber.

Prahlad Chebbi, Dharwad

Congress immaturity

Ref: *Tharoor's praise for Kerala in TNIE column sparks Cong backlash* (Feb 16). The Congress's reaction to the MP's praise for Kerala showcases political immaturity and insecurity in the GOP. Democracy is not only about criticism and fault-seeking, but also about worthy compliments.

George Jacob, Kochi

Positive propositions

The Congress party's hue and cry over its MP's positive comments about the LDF government is ridiculous. India needs more such politicians who believe they can also spot the good things rival parties do and not merely indulge in mudslinging. It is seeking votes on positive propositions rather than negative propaganda that makes a democracy mature.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Stop fraudsters

Ref: *Why Amritsar chosen? Political slugfest erupts* (Feb 16). Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann should be mulling over ways to curb the free operation of bogus travel agents in the state rather than finding fault with the selection of Amritsar as the landing zone. He should leave no stone unturned to hunt these agents down.

Krishnaprasad S, Elappully

Landing issues

The landing of 119 deportees has become a political issue, with various parties blaming each other. CM Mann suggested the PM should discuss the landing issue with US President Donald Trump. Following this, the BJP defended itself, while the Congress raised questions about the AAP government. Politicians need to stop fighting among themselves and start looking out for the affected people in the state.

Gulam Rabbani, Haveri

Train tragedy

Ref: *Stampede horror at New Delhi railway station leaves 15 dead* (Feb 16). The railway station stampede is yet another tragic incident. It could have been avoided if the authorities had regulated the crowd properly. The insensitivity and indiscipline of the people in getting into the train was also a cause.

Sravana Ramchandran, Chennai

● High alert at stations witnessing very high footfall during Maha Kumbh ● Vaishnaw meets Shah and top officials

RAIL BHAVAN GETS INTO HUDDLE

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

UNDER pressure from various quarters, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday held a series of meeting at the Rail Bhavan to take stock of the safety measures during heavy passenger rush. Vaishnaw also met and briefed Home Minister Amit Shah about the stampede at the New Delhi railway station.

Railways announced the names of two high administrative group officials, who will be part of the inquiry committee constituted to probe the stampede at the New Delhi Railway station. Narsingh Deo, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, and Pankaj Gangwar, Principal Chief Security Commissioner, Northern Railway, are the members of the committee, the railways said.

Railways directed all zones to remain on maximum alert, ensuring the safety of passengers during seasons of heavy footfall, especially in stations dealing with high numbers of passengers traveling to the Maha Kumbh. Sources said nearly 60%-70% of those attending the Kumbh are taking trains.

The railway stations across Uttar Pradesh have been put on high alert following massive convergence of devotees reaching Prayagraj for holy dip at Sangam. Prayagraj and its neighbouring districts, including Ayo-dhya, Gonda, Varanasi, Fatehpur, Gorakhpur and Lucknow experienced huge crowd on railway stations.

ADG, Railways, Prakash D has issued directives to the authorities concerned to ensure deployment of GRP personnel on all stations across the state.

Heightened alert has been sounded on railway stations across Madhya Pradesh, with security being beefed, particularly at the Katni and Satna stations of the West Central Railway (WCR). "There is a huge rush of devotees bound to Maha Kumbh. The rush is at its peak in Katni and Satna, the two stations on the route of long-distance trains coming from central, western and southern India to Prayagraj," police said.

In Satna, in-charge IG of Rewa Saket Pandey along with administrative, health and railway officials, held a meeting on Sunday afternoon and decided to raise the number of GRP and RPF jawans up to four times at key stations.

All trains towards Prayagraj from Jharkhand are overcrowded, with even people with valid reservation tickets finding it hard to board trains. According to a passenger from Hazaribagh, Premchand Prasad, who boarded the train from Koderma, trains are running without ticket collectors and RPF jawans as even they are not able to board the trains. The East Central Railway has bolstered safety measures as most passengers from Bihar are bound for Prayagraj.



MAJOR STAMPEDES ACROSS COUNTRY

- **Jan 29, 2025:** 30 killed and 60 injured at Maha Kumbh
- **July 2, 2024:** 121, most of whom women, lost during a 'satsang' by godman Bhole Baba in Hathras, UP
- **March 31, 2023:** 36 died when a well collapsed during Ram Navami at Indore temple
- **January 1, 2022:** 12 died and over a dozen injured at Vaishno Devi shrine in J&K due to heavy rush of devotees
- **September 29, 2017:** 23 dead and 36 injured in a stampede on a bridge connecting Elphinstone Road station with Parel station of Central Railway in Mumbai
- **July 14, 2015:** 27 pilgrims died and 20 injured at a bathing spot along Godavari where devotees gathered for festival in Rajahmundry, AP
- **October 3, 2014:** 32 killed and 26 injured at Gandhi Maidan in Patna, shortly after Dussehra celebrations ended
- **October 13, 2013:** 115 killed and over 100 injured during Navratri near Ratnagarh temple in MP's Datia
- **January 25, 2005:** Over 340 devotees trampled to death and hundreds injured during a pilgrimage at Satara temple
- **August 3, 2008:** 162 dead, 47 hurt at Naina Devi temple in Himachal's Bilaspur
- **September 30, 2008:** 250 devotees killed and 60 hurt in a stampede following rumours of a bomb at Chamunda Devi temple in Jodhpur
- **March 4, 2010:** 63 killed at Ram Janki Temple in UP's Pratapgarh where people gathered to collect clothes and food from a godman
- **January 14, 2011:** 104 Sabarimala devotees killed and over 40 injured when a jeep crashed into a homebound pilgrims in Kerala's Idukki
- **November 8, 2011:** 20 killed in Haridwar at Har-ki-Pauri ghat along the Ganga
- **November 19, 2012:** 20 killed and several injured as a makeshift bridge caved in, triggering a stampede during Chhath Puja at Adalat Ghat in Patna



Shoes, clothing and personal belongings lie strewn around the platform | EXPRESS

Oppn trains guns at Vaishnaw, holds him 'accountable'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Opposition demanded the resignation of Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, holding him "accountable" for the horrific stampede. The Congress, the main Opposition party, launched a scathing attack on the minister, urging PM Narendra Modi to remove him from his cabinet immediately. Other Opposition parties, including the Left, TMC, and RJD, accused the government of trying to suppress the death toll.

BJP leaders, however, came out to the government defence, posting images showing normalcy at the New Delhi railway station on social media.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the Narendra Modi administration of trying to "hide the truth" about the toll. In a post on 'X', the party stated, "The railway minister should resign, apologise to the country." LoP Rahul Gandhi said better arrangements should have been in place at the station due to the large number of pilgrims heading to Prayagraj for the Kumbh. "This incident highlights once again the failure of the railways and the government's insensitivity," he remarked in a post on 'X'.

Party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate demanded resignation of Vaishnaw, saying he must take moral responsibility. "If the minister does not resign, he should be dismissed for the mismanagement at the station," she said.

Former railway minister and Congress leader Pawan Kumar Bansal stated that the ultimate responsibility for the tragedy lay with the minister and criticised the government for "utterly failing" to anticipate the pilgrim rush.

RJD chief and former railway minister Lalu Prasad said, "The railway minister must resign. It is a complete failure on the part of the railways."

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, who was also railway minister, said, "Pilgrims on their way to the Maha Kumbh should have received proper support and facilities, not distress."

INSIDER TRACK

Nitish's aide on spiritual getaway

These days, Ashok Choudhary, a close aide to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, is on a spiritual getaway at the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple in Tirupati. He's deep into a special puja with his family, and of course, his colleagues—both past and present—are having a field day, calling it a move to secure the chief ministerial post amidst the political storm brewing in Bihar. Choudhary's connection to the temple goes way back to 2010, when his former Congress colleague Anil Sharma consulted an astrologer in Tirupati, and lo and behold, his career took off after that. In 2010, Sharma became the Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee (BPCC) president, hitting the peak of his political journey—until things started going south. At the time, Choudhary was reportedly along for the ride, and decided to consult the same astrologer. The prediction? A high-ranking position in Congress and—wait for it—possibly even the chief minister's chair, if he were to switch parties. Fast forward to 2017, Choudhary gets the top job at BPCC, only to leave it behind after the RJD-JD(U)-Congress alliance fell apart. He jumped ship to JD(U) and quickly became Nitish Kumar's trusted ally. Last year, rumors swirled that Choudhary chartered a special helicopter to visit all four major Hindu pilgrimage sites—just after his daughter won a seat as an MP from the LJP (Ramvilas) quota. Looks like Choudhary's making his moves, with a little help from the stars!



'What's next for party in five yrs?'

Amid the cheers and celebrations following their overwhelming victory in the recent assembly elections in the national capital, a certain group of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and workers in Delhi find themselves facing an unexpected dilemma. While the excitement of the win is still fresh, some are asking, "What's next for the party over the next five years?" For the past 15 years, the BJP in Delhi has been in constant opposition mode, organizing protests and demonstrations almost daily against the ruling government. After losing power to Congress in 1998, the party had remained in a state of protest, focusing its attacks on the Sheila Dikshit-led government. When Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) emerged, their attention shifted to Arvind Kejriwal and his team. Now, with a significant political shift on the horizon, these jubilant leaders are left wondering how to transition from opposition to governance—and figuring out their next move in this new political landscape.



Civilian award for 'CA in uniform'

Deepak Kumar Kedia, an officer of the 1999-batch of the Indian Police Service (IPS), affectionately known as 'CA in uniform,' recently received a prestigious award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Currently serving as the Inspector General (IG) of Headquarters at the National Security Guard (NSG), Kedia is a trained Chartered Accountant (CA). He was honoured with the 'CA in Public Service' award at the World Forum of Accountants Meet held in New Delhi in early February this year. The award recognizes Kedia's exceptional contributions to public service, especially in law enforcement and national security. His unique expertise bridges the worlds of finance and policing, making significant strides in counter-terrorism efforts, particularly in combating terror financing.

Fear, sorrow grip Prayagraj passengers on platform no. 16

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @ New Delhi

THE evening air at New Delhi Railway Station on Sunday crackled with unease. The crowd at platform 16 was restless, and a thick rope was stretched to control the surge.

Police officers stood at regular intervals, closely watching the passengers. Paramilitary boots moving between platforms, determined to prevent another tragedy. The atmosphere remained heavy with fear and sorrow.

Announcements echoed across the station, repeatedly informing passengers heading to Prayagraj that their trains would leave from platform 16. Other trains continued as scheduled to avoid overcrowding. Yet, unease lingered.

At the entrance of platform 16, security was strict. Ticket checkers examined every ticket, allowing only those with Prayagraj bookings to enter. Others were redirected to separate entrances. RPF officers inspected every bag. The intensity of the security checks reflected the desperate attempt to avoid another disaster.

On platforms 14 and 15, the ghosts of chaos lingered. Parents kept a firm grip on their little ones, scolding them at the slightest movement. People clutched railings, their expressions filled with anxiety. The trauma of the night still hung in the air.

Just last evening, panic had erupted there. A massive crowd of Maha Kumbh pilgrims surged forward, colliding into each other in confusion. In the chaos, 18 people lost their lives.

Media crews swarmed the platforms, their cameras capturing every tense face. They sought reactions from stall owners and shopkeepers, hoping to piece together the moments leading to the tragedy.

Nearby, a water stall owner wiped bottles briskly, avoiding eye contact. "I have been on TV all afternoon. Don't ask me anything," he snapped, mistaking a customer for a reporter. But the discussions continued elsewhere. Customers at stalls exchanged theories over tea and water bottles. Some blamed the overwhelming number of travelers, others pointed to poor railway management. Many accused the government of not arranging enough trains to accommodate the rush.

New Delhi Railway Station had witnessed many chaotic nights, but this was different.

High Feb temp likely to hamper wheat yields

JITENDRA CHOUHEY @ New Delhi

WITH the temperature rising above normal in February, the fate of wheat crops in Northwest India looks uncertain. The rising temperature may shrivel wheat pods, impacting the quality and quantity of it's production.

Wheat production in India has seen a decline in last three years. The grain at the pod filling stage needs a minimum or low temperature to help the grain take a robust shape.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), maximum temperatures in Northwest India are reportedly 2-6 °C above normal in different pockets. The minimum temperatures also rise above normal by 1-3 °C. The staple crop wheat grows over 75 per cent in Northwest India.

The IMD predicted below-normal rainfall and higher temperature in February over the plains of Northwest India, which would adversely impact standing crops like wheat at flowering and grain filling stages. Crops like mustard and chickpeas may also experience early maturity.

"Above normal temperatures in parts of Northwest and Cen-



tral India may lead to forced maturity, sterile spikelet, and chaffy grains, reducing yields during growth stages such as flowering and grain filling in crops like wheat and barley. Mustard and chickpea may also experience early harvest," said Debasish Jena, an agro meteorologist and research scholar G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology.

He also said that vegetables like onions, garlic, and tomatoes may be affected during bulb formation or flowering, resulting in tip burning, bolting, and mismatched polli-

nation, reducing their quality and yield. Early heat wave arrival in 2022 has impacted the overall production of wheat. India's wheat production declined by 18 Lakh tones, a report read.

The Director of the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR) however, denied any impact of rising temperatures and underlined that no sign of heat stress is visible over wheat.

"There is no sign of heat stress reported from wheat-producing states," said Dr Ratan Kumar Singh, Direc-

'Spray fertilizers on high temperature days'

The Director of the Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research (IIWBR) denied any impact of rising temperatures and said that no sign of heat stress is visible over wheat. The IIWBR advisor said that farmers need to take care of irrigation at the peak hours and spray certain fertilizers. It further advised that sprinkler irrigation may be provided for one hour on days with high temperatures in Southern Haryana and Northern parts of Rajasthan.

tor IIWBR. "Rising of temperature does not factor in much for the robust growth of grains. The current average temperature is suitable for wheat at this stage," said Ratan. However, he said farmers need to remain watchful.

The latest IIWBR advisor said farmers need to take care of irrigation at the peak hours and spray certain fertilizers.

It further advised that sprinkler irrigation may be provided for one hour on days with high temperatures in Southern Haryana and Northern parts of Rajasthan.

NMC distances from non-payment of stipend for undergrads by pvt colleges

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE National Medical Commission (NMC) has washed off its hands on the issue of non-payment of stipends by 198 medical colleges and institutions to its undergraduate interns, postgraduate residents, and senior residents. They said that the states where these medical colleges and institutions are located are responsible, an RTI has revealed.

This is despite the fact that NMC regulations clearly state that if any regulation, including non-payment of stipends to interns and postgraduate students, is violated, several steps can be taken against the erring medical college and institution. The violation attracts withholding and withdrawal of accreditation for five academic years and a penalty of ₹1 crore.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda also said that states are responsible for paying stipends to postgraduate residents. He, however, said that if the non-payment of stipends is brought to their attention, they will act on it.



Responding to an RTI filed by activist Dr K V Babu on the status of the action taken against stipend-non-paying colleges by the Undergraduate Medical Education Board, the NMC said, "It is also informed that NMC is the regulatory body which issues guidelines and regulations from time to time."

"Implementing the guidelines/instruction/advisory is solely at the discretion of the concerned state authorities under which the medical college/institute is located. However, collecting data on a stipend is in process," the reply, dated February 10, said.

Following the SC direction, the NMC issued show cause notices to 115 government and 83 private colleges and institutions last November for non-submission of the details of stipends paid to undergraduate interns, PG residents, and senior residents or PGs in super speciality colleges and institutions.

However, despite issuing show-cause notices to these medical colleges, no action has been taken against them.

"Though the NMC issued show cause notices to 198 medical colleges for not submitting the stipend details paid to post graduates and interns and resident doctors, they have been evasive regarding their actions against these non-paying medical colleges. They have now stated that it is the discretion of state authorities!" Dr Babu told this paper.

He further said that the regulations gazetted by the NMC in September 2023 regarding actions that they can take clearly state that monetary penalties up to Rs.1 crore can be imposed for non-compliance of the regulations.

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

■ Cousins were part of 117 illegal immigrants sent to Amritsar on special US military aircraft ■ Goldy Brar, Anmol Bishnoi among wanted

2 deportees arrested for murder in Patiala ...



Cuffed Indian migrants being deported on a US military aircraft | Pm

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

TWO youths among the 117 Indian illegal immigrants deported from the US have been arrested by Punjab Police for their involvement in a murder case. Cousins Sandeep Singh and Pradeep Singh were wanted in connection with a murder case filed in 2023 in Rajpura, Patiala. During the investigation, their names were added to the First Information Report.

A team from Patiala Police arrested them at Sri Guru Ram Dass International Airport in Amritsar. Sources said that the accused hail from Rajpura and had been declared proclaimed offenders in the murder case. They have been booked under sections 302, 307, 323, 506, 148, and 149 of the Indian Penal Code for the case registered on June 26, 2023.

However, police officials stated that they had not issued a 'Look Out Circular' for the two. Reacting to their arrest, the family members said that they spent a whopping ₹1.20 crore to facilitate their travel to the US.

A team led by the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Rajpura police station was sent to

Amritsar airport on Saturday to apprehend the two.

Confirming their arrest, Senior Superintendent of Police Nanak Singh stated that they were taken into custody at the Amritsar airport. Later that day, both were presented in the local court in Rajpura. Their families requested that they be allowed to meet their children.

Meanwhile, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann urged the youth of the state to learn from the recent deportation of illegal migrants from the United States.

He appealed to them to abandon

the notion of seeking to go abroad through improper means and instead work hard to develop their home state, making it a leader in the country.

Speaking at a gathering in Ghungrali, Ludhiana, during a sports tournament, CM Mann stated, "We are fortunate to have been born on this sacred land, known for having the most fertile soil in the world."

However, he lamented that due to the failures of successive governments, many young people felt compelled to migrate to other countries in search of better opportunities.

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

AMID two rounds of deportations of Indians living illegally in the US by the Trump administration, Indian agencies are readying to hand over a list of 10 gangsters to the US security establishment.

This list includes Goldy Brar and Anmol Bishnoi, who are hiding in the US and are wanted in India for their involvement in different criminal cases, officials said on Sunday.

The move against the backdrop of the Trump administration deciding to extradite 26/11 Mumbai terror accused Tahwur Rana, as a team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) will soon bring him back, they said.

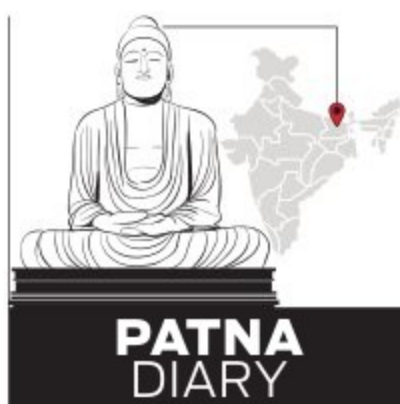
A senior official said, "The action is being taken by the Indian government under the existing extradition treaty between the two countries, which makes it obligatory on both sides to initiate measures against the criminals hiding in their respective territories."

Besides Brar and Bishnoi, a few others whose names figure in the list include Dharam

Kahlon, Gaurav Patial alias Lucky Patial, Amrit Baal, Harjot Singh Gill, Darmanjit Singh and Randeep, the officials said. It is learnt that the list has been prepared by the NIA following a directive from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which asked the agency to also give their criminal dossiers with it, while attaching a note on the efforts of Indian agencies to bring them back.

Anmol is the brother of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. He is an accused mastermind behind the murder conspiracy of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique. Anmol was arrested in the US in November after immigration authorities discovered he was travelling with fake documents. He has been in a US prison since then.

Brar is a designated terrorist by the MHA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He hails from Sri Muktsar Sahib in Punjab and is the alleged mastermind behind the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. India had signed the extradition treaty with the USA in 1997.



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR

Our correspondent in Bihar

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In the month of love, many find their soulmate

Love is in the air... especially in Bihar, where many people from various age groups are making efforts to find their soulmates, breaking away from traditional conventions. In Jamui district, a unique story unfolded when a woman married a bank loan recovery agent who frequently visited her house for loan-related matters. Surprisingly they found love and decided to marry disregarding all social barriers. In another incident, a young man fell in love with an orchestra dancer while she was performing on a stage show. Without wasting any time, he applied vermilion on her forehead, formalising the marriage in full public view.



'Son of Mallah' eyes Deputy CM's post

Former Bihar minister and VIP chief Mukesh Sahani has stirred up a fresh controversy within the opposition's grand alliance by asserting his claim for the position of deputy chief minister. In public meetings, Sahani has been heard stating that the 'son of a mallah' will become deputy CM if the grand alliance comes to power after 2025 assembly election. Sahani's bid for the deputy CM's post has unnerved leaders of grand alliance comprising RJD, Congress and Left parties as their first priority is to oust ruling NDA in the state.

Separate police team for security to VIPs

Bihar government has established a dedicated security police unit to ensure security to VIPs and VVIPs during the assembly elections scheduled for October-November. State DGP Vinay Kumar issued directives to all SSPs and SPs to provide list of police officers to be inducted as security force under their jurisdiction. In addition to providing police protection to VIPs and VVIPs, these officers will coordinate with the special armed police force like SPG to ensure foolproof security during their election campaign. Ensuring security to VIPs and VVIPs during election is a significant concern for the state police.

U'khand mulls revised land bill with strict norms ahead of Budget session

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

WITH the Uttarakhand Assembly's budget session set to begin on February 18, preparations are underway to present the revised land law bill on the floor of the house, with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami personally overseeing the developments.

According to high-ranking sources, the land law bill, which features stringent provisions, is expected to be approved in the next state cabinet meeting.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Premanand Agarwal said, "The misuse of land laws in the state will now have serious consequences. There will be no leniency in cracking down on violators, and the new land law includes strict provisions to ensure compliance. We are finalising the bill by amending the current land laws."

He added, "We have received suggestions from the general public, intellectuals, and various organisations at the tehsil level regarding the new land law. Based on these recommendations, we are outlining the framework for the new legislation. However, while we are

tightening the provisions of the land law, we will also ensure that there is no atmosphere of fear among industries and new investors."

The state government is exercising caution in light of ongoing public movements demanding stricter land laws and the intensified stance of the main opposition party, Congress. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has already implemented several stringent laws in the state. He announced plans to introduce a new land law bill during the budget session to curb irregularities in land transactions stemming from the flexible provisions of the current land law. The government is proceeding carefully to implement this announcement.

Following the submission of a report by a high-level committee, chaired by former Chief Secretary Subhash Kumar, who was tasked with reviewing and studying the current land law, the government has conducted assessments at various levels.

The committee has also recommended tightening the flexible provisions of the existing land law.

Nainital HC to hear 5 cases against UCC

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN a legal battle, five petitions have been filed against the recently implemented Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which came into effect on January 27. Various Muslim organizations are contesting the law's legality, claiming it undermines their community's established personal laws.

The Nainital HC will hear the cases on April 1, allowing six weeks for the parties to prepare their arguments. The petitions assert that the UCC conflicts with the prevailing practices of the Muslim community, raising concerns about its implications on personal laws.

Chief Justice G. Narendar, presiding over the division bench of the High Court, urged individuals adversely affected by the UCC to seek judicial recourse. "Individuals who believe they have been impacted are encouraged to bring their grievances before the court," he said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal presented compelling arguments, asserting that no provincial government possesses the authority to implement a UCC under the third entry of the legislative list.

ATS flags B'deshi terrorists entering J'khand for training

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

IN a shocking input received by Jharkhand Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), some terrorists entered the state from Bangladesh and returned after providing training to some people in Pakur as part of a conspiracy. Following the revelation, the ATS issued an alert to all SPs and DIGs, stating that after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh, banned organisations there are hatching anti-India terrorist conspiracies.

Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) terrorist Abdul Mammun reportedly crossed the border from Bangladesh and reached the Pakur district via Dhuliyani in Murshidabad. He illegally crossed the border and reached Pakur on January 6, where he trained 15 members of JAHA-India.

Police sources said that after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh, banned organisations there are hatching anti-India terrorist conspiracies. As part of the conspiracy, some terrorists entered Jharkhand from Bangladesh and later returned after training certain individuals.



According to the letter issued by the ATS, a meeting was held between JAHA-India and JMB members at Islami Dawa Centre, Dubrajpur in Pakur, on January 6. Abdul Mammun, a JMB member, also attended.

Mammun held a meeting with members of an organisation called JAHA and provided terrorist training to several cadres before returning to Bangladesh. "It is learnt that Abdul Mammun illegally crossed the border and came to Pakur on January 6. During his visit, he provided training to 15 JAHA members. He left India on January 7, 2025, by Dhuliyani route," stated the letter.

"In view of the above threat, you are requested to suitably brief and alert your field formation for collecting ac-

'Hatching anti-India terrorist conspiracies'

Police sources said that after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh, banned organisations were hatching anti-India terrorist conspiracies. Some terrorists entered Jharkhand from Bangladesh and later returned after training certain individuals.

tionable intelligence in this regard and to take appropriate, preventive & precautionary measures so that nothing untoward happens, it said.

The letter further stated the names of all 15 individuals who received training in Pakur. ATS intelligence suggests that several individuals from Jalangi in Murshidabad also participated in the meeting.

Police said that the ATS has alerted SP's and DIG's across all districts to take action after gathering confidential information. Notably, the banned terrorist organisation JMB had been active in Sahibganj and Pakur within the Santal Pargana region. It had gathered information about suspects and underground workers linked to this organisation.

Red alert sounded as poachers on prowl in MP

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

AN organised gang of tiger poachers, which also includes women and children, could have poached 10-11 tigers in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh over the last three months.

It is believed that the arrest of these gang members last month in Maharashtra prompted the central government's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau to issue a nationwide alert.

An ongoing probe by multiple agencies into tiger poaching following the arrests of key operatives of the gang comprising the tribal Pardhi community in Chandrapur (Maharashtra) in January, has revealed a strong possibility of 10-11 tigers having been poached by the gang in the three adjoining states over the last three-four months, a member of the probe team said.

While the notorious tiger poacher Ajit Rajgond alias Ajit Pardhi, his mother, wife and key associates were arrested in Chandrapur on January 25, his equally notorious brother Keru and aides escaped.

Just a fortnight after the ar-



rests of Ajit and key associates, four more members of his gang were nabbed in a joint operation by the state Tiger Strike Force of the MP forest department and the special task force (STF) of MP police, from their camp in Dindori district of their native eastern MP.

"We arrested four persons from the spot, including two close relatives of Ajit (both aged between 16 and 18 years) and

two other male gang members, one aged 19 and the other being 22 years old. We're searching for other members of the large gang, particularly his brothers and sons, who are on the run," a probe team member said.

The gang has been involved in multiple criminal activities, including poaching of tigers and other wild animals (whose remains fetch big money in international markets), narcotics

smuggling, looting and killings of humans, as well as selling fake animal parts (like colouring goat skin as tiger skin).

"The members keep moving from one state to another, including parts of their native MP, adjoining Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha, UP, Punjab, Bihar, West Bengal and the North East. They have key contacts in the North East, especially Nagaland, which are helping the remains of animals (including tigers) poached by them, to smuggle abroad. Not just the North East, but the two teenagers who are currently at the juvenile centre (following the arrests in Dindori) were even talking over the phone to contacts based as far as the US, which speaks volumes about the extent of their criminal activities," an official said.

The gang has been poaching tigers in two ways – through Lotus-shaped metallic booby/leg traps and the 'fanda' (noose) made from clutch wires, besides crude bombs.

"You name any animal, and they'll tell you yes, they've poached it. One of their other money spinners is narcotics trade," the official added.



Tiger and leopard skins are stitched between two blankets

Manipur tribals look up to Centre for lasting peace

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

MANIPUR'S ten Kuki-Zo legislators are hopeful that the imposition of President's rule would help restore peace in the ethnic violence-hit state.

"While acknowledging the Centre's decision to place the Assembly under suspended animation, we hope that the Government of India would lay out a comprehensive political roadmap for peace and justice under a negotiated settlement," the MLAs said in a joint statement issued on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Manipur police have received complaints about fraudulent calls from unknown individuals, trying to mislead MLAs of the State Assembly by exploiting the political situation in the state. The police are probing the matter.



cuss the matter with all stakeholders. He appealed to the ACF to not resort to any protest. The church organisation, however, slammed the CM for his alleged double standard.

"We don't entertain his statement. In 2018, he himself had announced that he will repeal this draconian law. But in 2024, he announced that it will be implemented. This is his double-standard," ACF president Tarh Miri said.

The ACF termed the Act as unconstitutional, anti-Christian and against the spirit of secularism. The strike will be staged across district and sub-divisional headquarters.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THE Arunachal Christian Forum (ACF), the apex organisation of various Christian denominations in the state, will spearhead the protest.

The state government said APPRA would be implemented in deference to a directive of the Gauhati High Court. The court had asked the government to finalise the draft rules of the Act within six months from September 2024.

CM Pema Khandu said that rules were being framed as per a directive of the High Court. He said the rules were not being framed against any religion. They are not against Buddhists, Hindus, Christians or Muslims, he said.

"The government has been asked to frame the rules to give some more protection to indigenous (faiths)," Khandu said. Stating that the rules will not harm anybody, he said he would ask the state's department of indigenous affairs minister and the home minister to dis-

Rubio in Israel says Hamas must be eradicated, complicating shaky truce

US Secy of State begins his first tour of the Arab world where he is likely to face pushback

JERUSALEM

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Sunday fully endorsed Israel's war aims in the Gaza Strip, saying Hamas 'must be eradicated' and throwing the future of the shaky ceasefire into further doubt.

Rubio met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem at the start of a regional tour, where he is likely to face pushback from Arab leaders over President Donald Trump's proposal to transfer the Palestinian population out of the Gaza Strip and redevelop it under US ownership.

Netanyahu has welcomed the plan, and said he and Trump have a 'common strategy' for Gaza's future. Echoing Trump, he said "the gates of hell would be open" if Hamas does not release dozens of remaining hostages abducted in its Oct 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war.

Their remarks came just two weeks before the first phase of the ceasefire is set to end. The second phase, in which Hamas is to release dozens of remaining hostages in exchange for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting truce and the withdrawal of Israeli forces, has yet to be negotiated.

Rubio said Hamas 'cannot continue as a military or government force'.

"As long as it stands as a force that can govern or as a force that can administer or as a force that can threaten by use of violence, peace becomes impossible. It must be eradicated."



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shake hands during a news conference in Jerusalem on Sunday | AP

As long as it stands as a force that can govern or as a force that can administer or as a force that can threaten by use of violence, peace becomes impossible. It must be eradicated

Marco Rubio, US Secy of State

of violence, peace becomes impossible," Rubio said. "It must be eradicated." Such language could complicate efforts to continue talks with Hamas, which, despite suffering heavy losses in the war, remains intact and in control of Gaza.

The Israeli military meanwhile said it carried out an airstrike early on Sunday on people who approached its forces in southern Gaza. The Hamas-run Interior Ministry said the strike killed three of its policemen while they were securing the entry of aid trucks near Rafah, on the Egyptian border.

Hamas said that attack was a 'serious violation' of the ceasefire and accused Netanyahu of trying to sabotage the deal.

Resuming the war could be a death sentence for the remaining hostages and may not succeed in annihilating Hamas,



which survived a 15-month Israeli onslaught and quickly reasserted control over Gaza when the ceasefire took hold last month.

Netanyahu has signalled readiness to resume the war after the current stage and has offered Hamas a chance to surrender and send its top leaders into exile. Hamas has rejected such a scenario.

Netanyahu also has yet to approve the entry of mobile homes and heavy machinery into the Gaza Strip, as required by the ceasefire agreement.

AP

Ukraine calls US minerals deal colonial, refuses to sign

MUNICH

ISRAEL said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he directed his ministers not to sign off on a proposed agreement to give the United States access to Ukraine's rare earth minerals because the document was too focused on US interests.

The proposal, which was a key part of Zelenskyy's talks with US Vice President JD Vance on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference on Friday did not offer any specific security guarantees in return, according to one current and one former senior Ukrainian official familiar with the talks.

Zelenskyy's decision not to sign a deal, at least for now, was described as 'short-sighted' by a senior White House official.

"I didn't let the ministers sign a relevant agreement be-

Russian drone targets critical infrastructure

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday 100,000 people were without heating in the southern city of Mykolaiv in cold temperatures after a Russian drone strike on "critical infrastructure". Ukrainian officials had earlier said that Russian drones had hit a local thermal power plant. Zelenskyy said the attack was proof Russia did not want peace

cause in my view it is not ready to protect us, our interest," Zelenskyy.

The proposal focused on how the US could use Kyiv's rare earth minerals 'as compensation' for support already given to Ukraine by the Biden administration and as payment for future aid, current and former senior Ukrainian

officials said, speaking anonymously so they could speak freely.

Ukraine has vast reserves of critical minerals that are used in the aerospace, defense and nuclear industries. The Trump administration has indicated it is interested in accessing them to reduce dependence on China but Zelenskyy said any exploitation would need to be tied to security guarantees for Ukraine that would deter future Russian aggression.

"For me is very important the connection between some kind of security guarantees and some kind of investment," the Ukrainian president said.

Zelenskyy did not go into details about why he instructed his officials not to sign the document, which was given to Ukrainian officials on Wednesday by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on a visit to Kyiv. "It's a colonial agreement and Zelenskyy cannot sign it," the former senior official said. AP

ISIS lone wolf attacker stabs one to death, hurts five others in Austria

VIENNA

A 23-year-old man stabbed six passersby in southern Austria on Saturday in what police said was a random attack that left a 14-year-old dead and five others injured.

The suspect was detained in the city of Villach, where the attack took place, police said. He is a Syrian national with legal residence in Austria, they said.

Authorities said the stabbing was carried out by a man with possible connections to the Islamic State group who appeared to have acted alone.

"This is an Islamist attack with an IS connection by an attacker who radicalized himself within a very short time via the internet," Interior Minister Gerhard Karner told reporters in Villach Sunday.

As the focus shifted to migration and asylum-seekers, Karner said that it will ultimately be necessary to "carry out a mass screening without cause, because this assassin was not conspicuous."

It was unclear how long the suspect had been in Austria, although authorities said he had a residence permit. Austria's far-right leader Herbert Kickl, whose party won a national



People look into a barricaded area where a man stabbed several people in the southern Austria city of Villach on Saturday | AP

election four months ago, called for "a rigorous crackdown on asylum" in the wake of the attack.

On Sunday, Kickl said that since all other parties in Austria had failed to implement the necessary asylum restrictions, it is crucial for his party to control the Interior Ministry — which is in charge of asylum and migration — in any future government.

Last week, coalition talks in Austria collapsed for a second time when Kickl's Freedom Party and the conservative People's Party were unable to agree on who would oversee the Interior Ministry. The mayor of Villach, Günther Albel, said the attack was a "stab in the heart of the city." AP

Police arrest Pravind, ex-PM of Mauritius, for laundering

PORT LOUIS

POLICE in Mauritius on Sunday arrested the island's former prime minister Pravind Jugnauth in a money-laundering probe and seized stacks of cash in raids on fellow suspects' homes, officials said.

Officers detained the 63-year-old along with his wife Kobita Jugnauth on Saturday and questioned them for several hours, police sources said.

Kobita Jugnauth was later released and Pravind Jugnauth was placed under formal arrest in the early hours of Sunday.

Pravind Jugnauth's lawyer Raouf Gulbul told reporters: "He gave his version of events and denied the allegations made against him."

He said the ex-premier would appear before a judge later on Sunday. A police incident report detailed a search by officers at the home of another suspect, who works for a local leisure company.

It said they seized documents bearing the names of the Jugnauths, as well as luxury watches and stacks of various currencies. Police also searched the home of a local real estate executive and seized suitcases of cash, local media reported.

AFP

Republican Vivek to start his governor race on Feb 24

COLUMBUS

REPUBLICAN Vivek Ramaswamy is preparing to launch his 2026 bid for Ohio governor on Feb 24 in his native Cincinnati, with ensuing announcements held over two days in the Columbus, Toledo and Cleveland areas.

The 39-year-old biotech entrepreneur will kick off his closely watched campaign at Cincinnati's CTL Aerospace Inc. He'll then head to New Albany, outside Columbus, to deliver remarks at Axium Packaging later that evening, according to a person close to the campaign.

On Feb 25, Ramaswamy plans events at Glass City Center in Toledo and The Local Bar in Strongsville, a suburb of Cleveland.

Ramaswamy will enter a GOP primary to succeed term-limited Ohio Gov Mike DeWine that's already been joined by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost and Heather Hill, a former member of the state Martin Luther King Commission.

Former Ohio Lt Gov Jon Husted, long viewed as a frontrunner in that contest, dropped out of the running last month after being appointed to the US Senate seat formerly held by Vice President JD Vance, a friend of Ramaswamy's since the two attended Yale Law School.

As Ramaswamy seeks to overcome a lack of political or government experience, he has already secured the endorsements of two sitting Republican statewide officials. AP



RAIN IN U.S. KILLS EIGHT

A partially submerged car, above, in Warren County and a kayaker, right, navigates floodwaters in rural Knox County. Torrential rains have caused intense flooding in Kentucky, resulting in eight deaths. Parts of Kentucky and Tennessee received up to 6 inches (15 cms) of rain during the weekend storm, according to National Weather Service.

AP

Landslide at gold mine in Mali kills 42 persons

BAMAKO

A gold mine collapsed in eastern Mali, killing dozens of people and injuring many more, according to Malian television and officials in the Kénieba district where the accident occurred. It is the second major accident this year in the French-speaking West African country, which is one of Africa's top three gold producers.

Late on Saturday, Mali-an television announced the collapse of the site at Bilali Koto in the commune of Dabia, with a provisional death toll of 42 and many injured.

The prefect of Kénieba, who represents the government in the locality, confirmed the incident. "The death toll of 42 should be definitive," Mohamed Dicko said on Sunday.



AP

Pope Francis skips Sunday noon blessing

ROME

POPE Francis read the newspapers and had breakfast on Sunday after a second night sleeping well at the hospital where the 88-year-old pope is being treated for a respiratory tract infection, the Vatican said. Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said he expected to provide a further update later in the day. He noted that substantially new detailed medical information may not be forthcoming given it's a Sunday.

Francis skipped his traditional Sunday noon blessing, declining to even come to his hospital window to wave to a small crowd below that had gathered in hopes of cheering him on. The @Pontifex social media account, which is not written by the pope, thanked people for their prayers. AP

EXPRESS READ

Brazil to host BRICS meet from July 6-7

The Brazilian government announced that the next BRICS summit will take place in Rio de Janeiro from July 6-7. Brazil will chair the bloc of developing economies through 2025 and said it will focus on promoting global governance reform and cooperation among Global South countries. "We will make crucial decisions for development, cooperation, and improving the lives of all the inhabitants of these (BRIC) countries," said Mauro Vieira, Brazil's minister.

ASIA MATTERS

GRAFT BODY INDICTS 44 EX-MEMBERS

The National Anti-Corruption Commission will indict 44 former MPs of the now-dissolved Move Forward Party for breaching ethical standards over their sponsorship of a bill to amend Section 112 of the Criminal Code, also known as the lese-majesty law (defaming the monarch). *BP* reported. One of the MP has received summons.

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE & JUDGE AT DEWANAHALLI
C.Misc.No.50/2025

BETWEEN: Sri. Subramanya K.S & others...Petitioners
AND: The Tahasildar, Devanahalli Taluk & others...Respondents

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned Counsel appearing on behalf of my clients Sri Subramanya K.S & others have filed petition for issuance of Death Certificate of Sri. Subrahmanya K.S late. Munishayappa who died on 28-09-1984, at Karamangala Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District. If any of the parties have objections or claims, may dispute regarding the same or any other interested persons could appear before the Principal Civil Judge & JMC, at Devanahalli on the next date of hearing i.e., on 21-03-2025 at 11:00 A.M. in C.M.No.50/2025.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 11-02-2025

By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Civil Judge & JMC Court, Devanahalli

Advocate for Petitioners:
Santosh Kumar G. & S.L. Sanjay,
No.26/2, Sri. Krishna Building, Avenue Road,
Bangalore-560 002.

IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE - NELSON MANDELA

IN THE COURT OF B ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
L.A.C. No. 99/2020 (CCH-17)

BETWEEN: 1. G.Venkateshwarlu... CLAIMANTS
AND: SLAO, Karnataka Housing Board... RESPONDENT

NOTICE TO CLAIMANT No.2 UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

To, 2. Sindu S Reddy, D/o Sanjeevareddy, # 28, Yennura Ba Road, Madhavu Nagar, Bengaluru-560 001.

Whereas, the Respondent authority has filed this case against you and another claimant for reference under Section 77(1) of RCI (LA) Act 2013 it relates to acquisition case No. K95(LAQ-06/2006-07 and acquisition of land in site No.1056/68 (Sy.No.14) measuring 00 Acre 01.1 Guntas of Jigala Village, Anubale Hobli, Anand Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District vide Government Notification No. RD: 42, Shiwavader, 2008, Dated: 15/03/2008 and deposited the amount of Rs. 23,700/- before this Honble Court for apportionment.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the court of B Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-17) either in person or by a duly appointed counsel to plead on your behalf on 14-03-2025 at 11:00 A.M failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence, placing on party.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 12-02-2025.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristadar City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

SHARATH B BELAVOGLI,
Advocate and Associates

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public, my client - **K.H. PADMA**, aged about 75 years, wife of late Chikkanna, r/o No.102/1, 4th Main, 4th Cross, Sadashivanagara, Tumkuru-572102, intend to purchase the property which is fully described in the schedule given herewith under (1) **MR. CHETHAN H.B.**, Aged about 39 years, s/o Mr. Babu P. & (2) **Mrs. RAJINI P.** Aged about 35 years, w/o Mr. Chethan H.B, both are residing at No.124/9A, 7th Block, Sir M. Vishveshwariah Layout,Vishwanagar Post, Bengaluru-560 091.

Notice is hereby given to any person/Govt./Local Bodies/Banks claiming any right, title or interest over the said property may inform the same to my client's counsel stated below, in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this Notice.

If objections are not received within that date my client will go ahead with the purchase and no further objection will be valid after that.

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF Property, i.e. BDA Site No.2608, having PID No.1306, in the layout formed by Bengaluru Development Authority, 1st Block, Sir M. Vishveshwariah Layout, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 12.00 meters and North to South: 18.00 meters, totally measuring 216 square meters and is bounded on:
East by : Property No.2608, West by : Property No.2610, North by : Road, South by : Property Nos.2615 & 2516

G.R. Gangadhara, Advocate
431, 2nd Floor, Anjank Preet Plaza, K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560009. Mob: +91 9740296679
Email: grrangadhara@gmail.com
Place: Bengaluru Date: 15.02.2025

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NOTICE

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2800"™ Nirvan Kalyanak of Parshvanath Bhagwan (Denomination of ₹800) - Folder Packing	6900.00	6685.00
2800"™ Nirvan Kalyanak of Parshvanath Bhagwan (Denomination of ₹800) - Wooden Packing	7275.00	NA

The above-mentioned Commemorative Coins can be booked online on our website <https://www.indiagovtmint.in>. Alternatively, the Commemorative Coins can be ordered offline by submitting an order form available on our website or Commemorative Coins are also available at our Sales Counter @ Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg, Fort, Mumbai - 400001.

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Equity markets may rebound this week

Experts say that uncertainty surrounding Trump's economic policies, high valuations may impact the mkt in short-term

ARSHAD KHAN @New Delhi

INDIA'S equity market could witness a rebound this week, as historical data suggests that markets often recover after a steep selling streak.

Domestic brokerage firm Samco Securities noted that there is an 88% probability of a rebound this week. However, global factors, particularly US President Donald Trump's tariff policy and persistent selling by foreign institutional investors (FIIs), may keep bearish sentiment dominant.

"Historically, after a prolonged losing streak, Nifty 50 tends to recover in the following weeks. The average 1-week forward return is 1.6%, indicating a short-term rebound. Larger declines, such as the -8.19% drop in March 2020, led to extended weakness, with Nifty falling -6.1% in the subse-

quent week and -31.6% over three weeks."

"However, most other corrections resulted in a positive return in the following weeks. As of 13 February, 2025, Nifty 50 has undergone a 7-day declining streak with a cumulative fall of -2.98%. Based on historical patterns, the index may have a probability of rebounding over the next few weeks," said Samco Securities.

In recent instances, when the Nifty 50 index declined by 4.21% after falling for seven sessions between November 7 and November 18, 2024, it rebounded sharply the following week. Its one-week forward return was 3.3%, and the three-week forward return was 5%. Similarly, an 8-day losing streak in February 2023 resulted in a 4.21% drop in the index, followed by a 2.6% rally the



next week. In 2022, the Nifty 50 registered a 7-day falling streak twice, with the index dropping 6.37% in February 2022 and 5.60% in September 2022. The index then recovered 1.5% and 3.1%, respectively, in the following week.

On February 14, 2025, the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty closed in the red for the eighth consecutive session, with the

Sensex dropping 199.76 points to 75,939.21 and the Nifty falling 102.15 points to 22,929.25. The decline has been more pronounced in midcap and small-cap segments. The sell-off in the Indian equity market, which began as FIIs shifted focus to other emerging markets like China and Japan, has been worsened by global headwinds and domestic challenges. Slowing economic growth, weak corporate earnings, and stretched valuations have prompted investors, particularly FIIs, to exit Indian equities. Total FII selling in the cash market has now reached ₹105,145 crore in 2025.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services said that uncertainty surrounding Trump's economic policies and high valuations may impact the stock market in the short term, espe-

cially in emerging markets. Nair believes that the market is now in the final phase of consolidation.

"With the broad market having corrected by 14%, the downside appears limited, supported by strong long-term economic fundamentals. India's GDP growth is projected to increase from 6.4% in FY25 to 7.0% in FY26, if the earnings growth reverts to the long-term average of 15% in FY26, we can expect the market to move out of the negative trend," he said.

Vipul Bhowar, Senior Director - Listed Investments, Waterfield Advisors said that the recent shifts in global policies, especially those emerging from the US, are invoking a sense of uncertainty among FIIs which in turn is reshaping their investment strategies in dynamic markets like India.

IN CONVERSATION



DIPALI GOENKA
CEO and MD, Welspun Living

'India is becoming integral part of global supply chain'

WELSPUN Living is India's leading manufacturer and exporter of home textile. The company has a significant presence in the US and other major global exports markets. Dipali Goenka, CEO and MD of the company speaks to Dipak Mondal on growing challenges in the US and other exports markets. Edited excerpts:

Given the global uncertainty and the fear of tariffs, how do you see the textile industry evolving in the next two to three years, both globally and for Indian companies?

The home textile industry is the second-largest employer after agriculture and a significant revenue earner for India (as an exporter). India is becoming an integral part of the global supply chain, with many international retailers looking at it as a sourcing destination. Factors such as a stable democracy, a young workforce, and government initiatives like MSME support, Gati Shakti, PLI, and skill development contribute to its growth. While tariffs may have some impact, given India's prominence in the sector, it will not be impacted as much, comparatively.

Has India benefited from the China-plus strategy over the past few years?

The shift is gradual and does not happen overnight. The focus on India has increased in various sectors, including home textiles and apparel, toys, hard goods, etc. Major retailers like Walmart, Amazon, and Uniqlo have shown interest, emphasising a stable supply chain and a reliable business environment.

Will global economic headwinds significantly affect India's textile industry?

While economic disruptions will persist, India's strengths—such as its cotton supply chain, skilled workforce, and global competitiveness—will help it navigate challenges effectively. The world has changed post-COVID, and businesses must adapt to fluctuations rather than expect steady growth.

Why has India not gained as much from the China-plus strategy compared to countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam?

India continues to grow in key textile segments like towels, sheets, bath rugs, and bedding. While some countries may have gained more in certain areas, India's market share is increasing. Additionally, India's approach includes warehousing and servicing customers in key markets like the US, giving it a competitive edge beyond just manufacturing. Indian textile companies integrate warehousing, predictive analytics, vendor-managed inventory, and global sourcing to service customers efficiently. This approach enhances the overall business model beyond mere production.

How will potential changes in US trade policies under Trump impact the textile industry?

Any impact that will come on India, we will still be able to tide through it. It can't be as extreme as the other countries. While policy changes could have some impact, India is well-positioned to handle such shifts. Existing manufacturing and warehousing in the US, along with long-term trade relationships, will mitigate risks.

Has the decline in Bangladesh's manufacturing helped Indian textile manufacturers?

To that extent, yes, not just in home textile but also in apparel. This presents an opportunity for India to capitalise on market shifts by improving service efficiency, supply chain management and how we service our customers. I always say manufacturing is not just about manufacturing, it is about how you service, not the customer, but the consumer -- the right product, at the right time, at the right place.

Manufacturing is not just about manufacturing, it is about how you service, not the customer, but the consumer - the right product, at the right time.

MONEY-WISE

DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH HEALTH INSURANCE?



FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW India.

He can be reached at

ceobtus@hotmail.com

(Views expressed here are personal)



tively high health insurance cover found themselves having to pay out of pocket once the cover was exhausted.

At the other end of the spectrum, having learnt of the misfortune of the gentleman I referred to at the start of my column, one of our clients took a serious re-look at his existing Health Insurance Cover and increased his existing Cover which suddenly seemed woefully inadequate which also facilitated a multi-fold expansion in his base cover. As a matter of extreme prudence, he also chose a Top Up at a marginal cost from another private player that his wife had her base cover with.

He did it vice versa for his wife and now rests assured that his wife and he are, in fact, more than adequately covered for this life-time. Several of our clients too are now in the process of increasing their Health Insurance Cover having been educated about the importance of the right quantum of cover.

While there seems to be better awareness about the need for adequate Health Cover, the tendency to defer acting on it till it is too late remains. That amounts to gross negligence, especially on the part of those who can afford it. By delaying action, one is potentially putting oneself and by default, one's family at high monetary risk that could manifest at the most inopportune moment.

Thus, there is a very strong case for those without Health Insurance Cover to get one immediately and for those with existing cover to have it reviewed by an expert at the earliest and topped up to a limit commensurate with estimated medical treatment costs.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW TO MAKE SENSE OF VALUE WHEN PRICES FALL



FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at

www.moneyminute.in)

W HENEVER share prices fall, there is a feeling of despondency. You want to know if you are on the right track with your investment choices. Fund managers, who manage your money at mutual funds insurance companies, often air their views on the market. Much discussion over the selloff in small and mid-cap companies occupied mind space recently. The brisk sell-off in these stocks is a fact. It is also a fact that the prevailing market prices were way higher than the fundamental value these companies bring. An 'irrational exuberance' is now on a course correction.

Many mutual fund and equity investors are selling equity holdings as prices fall. If you are invested in borrowed money, you must sell every time share prices fall. Typically, traders will have to adjust their positions based on the market's direction. While in a rising market, you buy low and sell at a higher price, in a falling market, you sell at a higher price and buy at a lower price.

This column is about personal finance and long-term investing. As a result, any fall in the share prices should not cause panic if your investment philosophy is to hold for the long-term.

It is essential to highlight the letter to shareholders written by legendary American investor Warren Buffett in 1990. He emphasises being an investor who will keep buying parts of businesses through equity investing. "Given these intentions, declining prices for businesses benefit us, and rising prices hurt us," he told his shareholders.

In a few words, he explains what goes behind stock selection for long-term investing. He further states that the most common cause of low prices is pessimism—sometimes pervasive, sometimes specific to a company or industry.



FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at

www.moneyminute.in)

ing. He further states that the most common cause of low prices is pessimism—sometimes pervasive, sometimes specific to a company or industry.

"We want to do business in such an environment, not because we like pessimism but because we like the prices it produces. It's optimism that is the enemy of the rational buyer," Buffett argued in that letter.

Drawing from that philosophy, you must look at the fall in share prices as an opportunity. The argument that is being made is that you should sell the risky mid-cap and small-cap stocks and strengthen your exposure to fundamentally strong companies. It is fair advice for those who are actively managing their money.



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

IBC recovery hovers at 31% as more cases get liquidated

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @Mumbai

LENDERS continue to take deeper haircuts/losses from the insolvency and bankruptcy process which has from day-one been plagued by ordinate delays. This is due to frequent adjournments of hearings, largely blamed on the collusion between ex-promoters and resolution professionals.

As a result, the average haircut that lenders are forced to take hovers around 70% as of the December quarter when overall recovery stood at 31.4%.

According to an analysis of the latest IBCI data, compiled by Care Ratings, the cumulative recovery rate has been on a downtrend, decreasing from



43% in Q1FY20 and 31.4% in Q3FY25, implying a haircut of 68.6%, as larger resolutions have already been executed and a significant number of liquidated cases were either BIFR cases and/or defunct with long-resolution time.

Of the resolved cases only 13.8% ended in resolution,

while 24.3% remain in the resolution process as liquidation remains the most common path of closure under the IBC process with over 2,700 cases or (33.1% of admitted cases) ending up in liquidation.

Total admitted claims of financial creditors in Q3 were worth ₹9,509.7 crore. After slowing during the pandemic, the number of insolvency cases increased around 11% in Q2 but despite the increase, the number of cases admitted remains lower, and the number of ongoing cases are below 2,000 now.

In Q3, around 140 cases were initiated as cases initiated by both corporate debtors and operational creditors have come down significantly over time.

Repco Home Finance Q3 net profit up 7%

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

REPCO Home Finance has posted a 7% increase in its net profit for the December quarter at ₹107 crore compared to ₹99 crore in the year-ago period.

Its Net interest income in the third quarter stood at ₹188 crore as compared to ₹172 crore in the same quarter last year, registering a growth of 9%.

The overall loan book stood at ₹14,155 crore at the end of December 31, 2024, as against ₹13,185 crore, a year ago, registering a growth of 7%. The AUM was ₹13,964 crore as of September 30, 2024.

Its loan disbursements stood at ₹761 crore in Q3 FY25 as compared to ₹867 crore in Q2 FY25. Housing loans accounted for 74% of the loans.

Hyderabad-based Pennar Industries eyes 6 key verticals for future growth

DIPAK MONDAL @New Delhi

SIX key verticals -- hydraulics, pre-engineered buildings, body-in-white components, tubes, engineering services, and process equipment -- will drive growth of Pennar Industries for the next few years, says Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Aditya Rao.

"We have identified six verticals that will drive Pennar's expansion in the coming quarters and years. These sectors offer large addressable markets with low penetration, providing ample opportunities for revenue growth, profitability, and margin expansion," said Rao in an analysts call recently.

The Hyderabad-based company, however, recognised the need to reassess its legacy businesses, including solar, water



treatment chemicals, and water EPC. Rao says instead of halting these operations, Pennar opted for a value-driven approach by leveraging its existing capabilities, assets, and industry expertise through a JV structure. That is why it has entered solar panel manufacturing through a joint venture (JV) with Zetwerk. In collaboration with Zetwerk, Pennar Industries will transfer

its solar business know-how, assets, customers, and order backlogs into the newly established JV. Zetwerk will hold a majority stake, while Pennar will retain a minority interest.

"This model allows us to unlock value from our pre-qualifications and presence in the solar sector without requiring substantial investments. The JV structure ensures that our existing capabilities and human capital are effectively utilised, while Pennar benefits from potential long-term value creation as the business scales," Rao added. Pennar Industries has committed a capital investment of ₹18 crore into the JV. The company intends to replicate this approach for other non-core businesses, allowing it to focus on its prioritised growth areas.



Indonesia took home their first gold at the Asia Mixed Team Badminton Championship in Qingdao on Sunday, defeating two-time defending champions China. The Indonesian shuttlers breezed through the competition, stunning their Chinese opponents with a 3-1 win. **Alwi Farhan** (in pic) was one of the shuttlers behind Indonesia's success.

Waiting game continues for wrestlers off the mat

With participation at Ranking Series uncertain, selected grapplers yet to get appointment to meet sports minister to resolve matter

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

THE drama has once again shifted to the sports minister's doorstep.

Some four months ago, Indian wrestlers were forced to stay put at sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya's residence in New Delhi to ensure they got to compete at the 2024 World Championships scheduled in Tirana, Albania from October 28 to 31. In a repeat of what they did last year, wrestlers are once again seeking an appointment with Mandaviya to make sure they compete at the second Ranking Series scheduled from February 26 to March 2 in the same city. They did try to meet the minister on Saturday but to no avail as he was out of town.

The participation holds more importance as they had already missed the first Ranking Series held in Zagreb, Croatia earlier this month.

"We did the same in October last year and are now being forced to do it again. How long do we have to suffer?" rued wrestler Manisha, who is selected in the 65kg weight category for the Tirana event.

Manisha and a few other grapplers spent more than three hours at Mandaviya's residence on Saturday only to be told that the minister has left for Mumbai for an event. "We have been told that he will be back by Tuesday so we will again visit his residence as we are running out of time. We have already missed the first Ranking Series held from February 5 to 9. If we miss the upcoming series, it will be a big loss as we will not get seedings for World Championships, thus depriving us of a favourable draw. It will also hurt our medal prospects at the Asian Championships scheduled



We did the same in October last year and are now being forced to do it again. How long do we have to suffer? — Manisha, 65kg wrestler

Indian wrestlers had visited sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya's residence in New Delhi on Saturday in a bid to plead their ongoing case | **PHI**

Why is Ranking Series important?

Ranking series, four in a non-Olympic year and two in an Olympic year, provide points to each athlete in order to establish the World Ranking at the end of the year. At the end of the year, the ranking determines the best Athletes of the year in each weight category. On the basis of the ranking, a wrestler also gets seedings for the World Championships, which help them in getting a favourable draw.

next month," added Manisha.

Ever since the new executive committee of the Wrestling Federation of India, with president Sanjay Kumar Singh at the helm took charge in December 2023, the WFI has been at loggerheads with the sports ministry. The ministry even suspended the body for a few days after the election and a case in this regard is still pending in the court. Notwithstanding the suspension, the WFI has been recognised by the United World Wrestling (UWW) making it the sole authority from the country to send entries for the international tournaments.

"We are not concerned with the issues between the sports ministry and WFI. We want to compete and cannot keep missing these important events," Sunil Kumar, 87kg Greco-Roman wrestler, told this daily.

A few wrestlers seem to have lost hope and one among them is Shivani Pawar, who recently clinched 50kg gold at the 2025 National Games in Uttara-

khand. "Star wrestlers were claiming in the past they were fighting for the youngsters. Where are they now? This has become a norm for us. We wasted hours to meet the minister on Saturday but to no avail. After the National Games, recovery was our first goal but we queued up at the minister's residence. Before any international event, we should be focussed on training but here we are not even sure of our participation," she lamented.

The WFI chief, who had met the minister in October last year, has also sought time to have a meeting again. "I spoke to the minister's PA and sought time. The PA told me that he will give me an update on Monday. If need arises, I will also join wrestlers as I did last time to make sure they get permission to compete," said Sanjay Singh. Amid all this chaos, all is not lost yet. The minister's timely intervention can still enable wrestlers to compete in Tirana. For now, the wrestlers can only hope it happens sooner than later.

Shami works on lengths with Morkel

AGENCIES @Dubai

A FOCUSED Mohammed Shami spent considerable time with bowling coach Morne Morkel as a full-strength Indian team started its training in earnest ahead of its Champions Trophy opener against Bangladesh at the picturesque ICC Academy practice ground here on Sunday.

With the new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) strictly in place, there was no question of an optional session and right from skipper Rohit Sharma to the youngest Harshit Rana, the entire squad was present where Shami's routines were interesting. Having recently made his international comeback against England in both T20Is and ODIs, the stretchable knee caps did not go unnoticed as he first tried to get a feel of the conditions by bowling a few deliveries with a short run-up.

He looked gingerly in his initial strides even as others engaged in their physical drills, while a few others engaged in some fun and games activity aimed at improving anticipation and decision-making.

Before the batters entered the nets, Shami was trying to



Mohammed Shami (L) with India bowling coach Morne Morkel | **FILE**

adjust his length and walked up towards the batter's end in the net with bowling coach Morne Morkel in tow.

From a distance, it seemed that he was discussing the ideal length as he stood on the popping crease at the batter's end. Shami was seen pointing at a certain length outside the batter's crease which could be termed good length (4m to 6m) region. He gestured to indicate that he was trying to move the ball from that particular length as Morkel listened to him intently. Once the batters joined the nets, Shami was seen bowl-

finished with their sessions.

Kohli, as usual, looked a picture of concentration during the nets. Rohit had a spring in his step and seemed to be in a good mood after a match-winning century against England in Cuttack last week. When the main batters were at the nets, the ones who were doing fielding drills with coach T Dilip were Harshit Rana, Varun Chakravarty and Pant. They engaged in some single-action pick-up and throws. It also indicated that that the troika was perhaps not in the scheme of things as far as the first game against Bangladesh on February 20 is concerned. The entire team seemed to be in good spirits as Kohli was seen joking during the fun activity which was unique in its own way.

Rauf likely for opener?

KARACHI: Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf has recovered from his injury and will be available for his side's ICC Champions Trophy opening match against New Zealand on Wednesday, according to reports. Haris has remained with the squad despite the selectors calling up uncapped Akif Javed as a backup for him.

EXPRESS READ

Rider Tejas retains national crown

MEERUT: Tejas Dhangra of Beeya's Riding Facility retained the title at the National Equestrian Championship (show jumping) at the Modi Equestrian Academy here. Dhangra secured his victory with 16 points in the Championship Tour, finishing ahead of Amar Sarin of Tarc Equestrian Centre and Ashray Butta of EGC Stables, who ended as joint runners-up.

Jacquet wins second title in as many weeks

NEW DELHI: Frenchman Kyrian Jacquet continued his impressive run in India, adding the Delhi Open singles title to his trophy cabinet on Sunday, just days after claiming the Chennai Open crown. Jacquet beat second seed Billy Harris of Britain 6-4, 6-2 in the final at the DLTA Complex Centre Court to win the title. The third Challenger of Indian swing has already commenced in Pune.

Late bogeys push Lahiri down to T-7th in Adelaide

ADELAIDE: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri, who was six-under through his first 11 holes, carded a three-under 69 in the final round to finish tied 7th at the LIV Adelaide on Sunday, with late bogeys derailing his progress. Lahiri had rounds of 71-70-69 and totalled six-under. Joaquin Niemann overcame a three-shot deficit to claim the title.



Gujarat Giants players celebrate a wicket against UP Warriorz on Sunday | **WPL**

Spinner Priya sizzles as Giants crush Warriorz

AGENCIES @ Vadodra

YOUNG spinner Priya Mishra starred with three key wickets as Gujarat Giants beat UP Warriorz by six wickets in the Women's Premier League match here on Sunday.

Opting to bowl, Gujarat's attack was on the money from the start as Mishra returned impressive figures of 4-0-25-3, while skipper Ashleigh Gardner (2/39), Deandra Dottin (2/34), and Kashvee Gautam (1/15) all played key roles in restricting Warriorz to 143. Giants, in their chase, lost two quick wickets but Gardner used all her experience to hit a half-century — 52 off 32 balls — and steady the ship in the process. Later, Harleen Deol (34 n.o off 30 balls) and Dottin (33 n.o off 18 balls) applied the finishing touches as Giants won the contest with two overs to spare.

Earlier, Warriorz skipper Deepti Sharma top-scored with a 27-ball 39, while Uma Chetry (24) and Shweta Sehrawat (16) added useful middle-order contributions. Alana King (19) and Saima Thakor (15) combined for a late surge, adding 26 runs off 13 balls to take Warriorz past 140. Kiran Navgire and Vrinda Dinesh played some entertaining shots but were dismissed cheaply by Dottin and Gardner. Warriorz were reduced to 22 for 2 by the third over, with Navgire trapped in front by Dottin and Dinesh cleaned up by Gardner. Chetry and Deepti tried to rebuild but were limited by tight bowling from the Gujarat team. Their partnership of 50 runs off 43 balls was broken by Dottin, who removed Chetry. Mishra then struck twice in three balls, removing Australians Tahlia McGrath and Grace Harris to break Warriorz's back, leaving them at 78 for 5 in the 11th over.

Brief scores: UP Warriorz 143 for 9 in 20 ovs (D Sharma 39; P Mishra 3/25) **lost to** Gujarat Giants 144/4 in 18 ovs (A Gardner 52, H Deol 34 n.o, D Dottin 33 n.o; S Ecclestone 2/16).



TN Triathlon Association president N Ramachandran (front L), SDAT member secretary J Meghanatha Reddy (front R) and TN sports secretary Atulya Misra (C) with the winners of triathlon competitions held in Chennai on Sunday | **P JAWAHAR**

Basilico, Pratiwi toppers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

FRANCESCO Di Basilico from Italy (55.45 m) and Martina Ayu Pratiwi from Indonesia (64.25 m) won the men's and women's titles respectively at the SDAT Asia Triathlon Cup 2025, held at the INS Adyar on Sunday.

The Asian Triathlon Cup, organized in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Sports Devel-

opment Authority, Tamil Nadu Triathlon Association, and the Triathlon Federation of India saw 37 men and 16 women athletes from 14 countries participate. The Chennai leg is the first of the nine legs.

Results: Men: 1 Francesco Di Basilico (Italy); 2. Takuto Oshima (Japan); 3. Luke McGrane (Ireland). **Women:** 1 Martina Ayu Pradihevi (Indonesia); 2. Minori Ikono (Japan); 3. Anna Sihander (Switzerland).

FIH Pro League: Men's hockey team wins while women lose close match

AGENCIES @ Bhubaneswar

THE Indian men's hockey team made a brilliant comeback to down Spain 2-0 in a return leg match of the FIH Pro League here on Sunday.

India lost to Spain 1-3 in the first match of the leg on Saturday despite taking the lead through Sukhjeet Singh's goal.

On Sunday, however, it was a completely different looking Indian side as it dominated for most part of the match and scored two field goals through Mandeep Singh (32nd minute) and Dilpreet Singh (39th) to pocket full three points. India will next play Germany here on Tuesday.



Meanwhile, the Indian women's team fought back twice before going down 1-2 in shoot-out against England after both the teams finished 2-2 in regulation time earlier in the day.

Paige Gillot (40th minute) and Tessa Howard (56th) scored from two penalty corners for England in the regulation time, while India's goals came from Navneet Kaur (53rd) and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (57th). Kaur scored off a penalty stroke while Rutuja struck a field goal. In the shoot-out, only Navneet scored for India while the likes of skipper Salima Tete, Sunelita Toppo and Lalremsiami faltered. For England, Lily Walker

and skipper Sophie Hamilton were on target in the shoot-out. The win gave England a bonus point. India had earlier defeated England 3-2 in the first leg here on Saturday.

Spain women beat Germany

Spain secured a narrow 2-1 victory over Germany. A third-quarter strike from Luciana Molina proved to be the difference as Spain held on to claim full points. Germany started strongly, with Aina Kresken opening the scoring just over a minute into the game, giving her side an early 1-0 lead. However, Spain responded before the end of the first quarter, as Sofia Rogoski found the back of the net to level the score.

RANJI TROPHY

Kerala eye maiden final spot, face Gujarat challenge

AGENCIES @ Ahmedabad

HOSTS Gujarat are unlikely to digress from their tried and tested template of out-batting oppositions with dogged first innings displays as they take on Kerala in their Ranji Trophy semifinal beginning here on Monday. Gujarat, the champions of the 2016-17 edition, advanced to the semifinals for the first time since the 2019-20 season after thrashing Saurashtra by an innings and 98 runs in the quarterfinals in Rajkot. The victory was built on a formidable middle order performance featuring Manan Hingrajia, Jaymeet Patel, and keeper Urvil Patel, who form the core of their batting unit this season.

Fresh from his maiden first-class hundred with 140 runs, Urvil led Gujarat's charge in an imposing first innings total of 511, while Jaymeet contributed a crucial century. Jaymeet has been their top run-getter this season with 582 runs at an average of 48.50. Close on his heels



Mumbai's Suryakumar Yadav with Vidarbha's Karun Nair & Akshay Wakhare | **PHI**

with 570 runs, Hingrajia has also been consistent with two tons. On the other hand, it's been an emotional journey for the Sachin Baby's Kerala, who secured their second semifinal berth (since 2018-19) after a hard-fought quarterfinal against Jammu & Kashmir that came via a slender one-run first innings lead. Set a challenging target of 399, Kerala showed remarkable patience on the final

day to bat out and force a draw and result on their first innings lead. A crucial seventh-wicket partnership of 115 runs between Salman Nizar (unbeaten on 44 off 162 balls) and Mohammed Azharuddeen (67 not out off 118 balls), proved decisive in grinding down the opposition's attack. Thalassery's Nizar has been the man in form for Kerala. He struck a first-inning century, an unbeaten 112,

as his form would be crucial as Kerala would look to continue their dream run. With 22 wickets this season, MD Nidheesh has been the spearhead of Kerala's bowling attack.

Mumbai vs Vidarbha

NAGPUR: It's unlikely that Mumbai will have an injured Yashasvi Jaiswal in their ranks, but the resilient defending champions are firm favourites against Vidarbha in the other semifinal tie. Mumbai have a host of stars in their line-up such as skipper Ajinkya Rahane, Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube and Shardul Thakur. Meanwhile, Vidarbha have been in red-hot form this season. They don't have big names in their bowling line-up, but Harsh Dube, Yash Thakur, Aditya Thakare and Nachiket Bhut have consistently struck for Vidarbha. In fact, left-arm spinner Dube is the highest wicket-taker this Ranji season with 59 victims in his bag.

Live on JioHotstar

AFP @ Liverpool

LIVERPOOL moved seven points clear at the top of the Premier League as Luis Diaz ended his goal drought to spark a tense 2-1 win against struggling Wolves on Sunday.

Arne Slot's side got back on track after an unexpectedly poor week thanks to Diaz's first goal in 2025 and yet another Mohamed Salah strike.

Diaz opened the scoring early in the first half at Anfield as the Colombian forward finally scored for the 13th time this term after 10 games without a goal. While Diaz has struggled to find the net, Salah is in red-hot form and his penalty before the interval took the Egypt star to 28 goals in all competitions this season. Mathew Cunha netted in the second half for fourth-bottom Wolves, but although Liverpool looked tired in a disjointed, nervous, climax, they held on for a valuable victory. Liverpool had gone two games without a win: an



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (11) scores from the penalty spot against Wolves | **AP**

embarrassing FA Cup fourth round loss at second tier Plymouth last weekend and the stormy 2-2 draw at Everton on Wednesday.

Arsenal's 2-0 win at Leicester on Saturday had applied a little more pressure on Liverpool.

Spurs inflict more misery on struggling Man United

LONDON: Tottenham won the battle of the underachievers 1-0

to inflict another dismal result on Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim.

James Maddison scored the only goal on 13 minutes as Spurs moved above United in the table into 12th thanks to a third win over the Red Devils this season.

United now find themselves down in 15th, but do enjoy a 12-point cushion over the bottom three.



BEYOND THE GATE: WHAT NEXT?

The exams are over, but the journey isn't. Whether you're waiting for results, planning your next move, or just catching your breath, this page is here to help. From rank breakdowns to career paths, from post-exam reflections to a little well-earned humour... Consider this your guide to what's next (And yes, we're still making GATE puns. Not as many as last time, though. Promise.)

Higher studies (M.Tech, ME, MS)

Top Institutes: IITs, IISc, NITs, and global universities

Specialisations: AI, Structural Engineering, Power Systems, etc

PhD & research

Institutes: IISc, IITs, CSIR labs, BARC, ISRO

Career outcomes: Research Fellow, Professor, R&D Scientist

Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)

Companies: IOCL, NTPC, ONGC, SAIL, BHEL, HPCL

Roles: Engineering, Project Management, Tech Development

International higher studies

Countries: Germany, Singapore (TU Munich, NUS, NTU accept GATE)

Courses: Advanced research & engineering degrees

Break the GATE, unlock your future



Teaching & academia

Eligibility: Assistant Professor roles in engineering colleges
Further Qualification: NET exam for research positions

MBA via GATE (select institutes)

Institutes: NITIE, IISc, IITs (for tech-focused management)
Roles: Operations, Analytics, Industrial Management

Industry & private sector

Fields: Core Engineering, R&D, Tech Consulting
Some companies prefer GATE scores in selection criteria

Research labs and innovation

Organisations: DRDO, BARC, ISRO, CSIR
Projects: Space, nuclear, biotech, advanced materials

Rank vs Reality

What Your GATE Score Means



The golden ticket! IITs, IISc, dream PSUs, and elite opportunities await you.

Good IITs, NITs, research labs, and PSUs — your options are still wide open!

Solid NITs, private sector jobs, international MS programmes, and more.

Time to weigh options: MS abroad, industry jobs, or even a strategic GATE reattempt.

Don't panic! Higher studies, niche specialisations, and alternative routes still offer a path forward.

ILLUSTRATION: SOURAV ROY



IF ONLY CTRL+Z WORKED IN REAL LIFE...

WAITING FOR GATE RESULTS? READ THIS BEFORE YOU SPIRAL...

Staring at the calendar won't make results come faster, but you can make the wait easier. Here's how to stay productive, sane, and maybe even have a little fun while you wait

PRODUCTIVE THINGS TO DO

✓ **Research college & course options:** Look up IIT, NIT, or MS abroad cutoffs, check alternative entrance exams.

✓ **Explore PSU & industry openings:** Some PSUs start hiring based on GATE scores before results are even out!

✓ **Consider alternative career paths:** MBA, PhD, certification courses — research what fits your interests.

✓ **Brush up on interview & aptitude skills:** PSUs and some institutes conduct interviews before finalising admissions.

✓ **Start learning a useful skill:** Coding, CAD, data analysis, research writing — boost your resume.

✓ **Plan a backup option:** Think ahead in case your score doesn't meet expectations.

WAYS TO RELAX & DE-STRESS

✓ **Unplug for a while:** You deserve a mental break after the intense prep phase!

✓ **Pick up an old hobby:** Reading, gaming, sports — reconnect with what you love.

✓ **Take a short trip:** A change of scenery is great before diving into your next steps.

✓ **Sleep & exercise right:** Recharge yourself before your next big challenge.

✓ **Connect with friends:** You're not alone — everyone's in the same boat!

✓ **Avoid overanalysing the exam:** What's done is done. Trust your efforts.

— Compiled by Nikhil Abhishek



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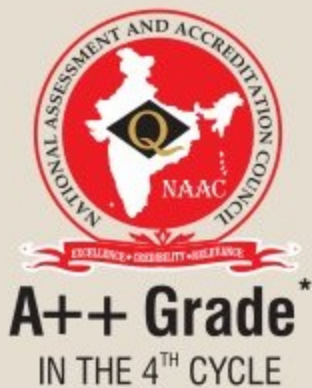
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DAY'S DIARY

Volkswagen on top

On this day in 1972, Volkswagen Beetle No 15,007,034 rolled off the assembly line, surpassing Ford's Model T as the most-produced car

ORIGINS

In 1933, Adolf Hitler commissioned Ferdinand Porsche to create a Volkswagen – a car for the people. It had to fit two adults and three children, and cost 990 Reichsmarks



POST-WAR REVIVAL

After WWII, the British dismissed the Beetle as commercially unviable. Germany retained production, proving the skeptics wrong



A LASTING LEGACY

The Beetle gained popularity through its affordability. Before ceasing production in 2003, it saw all – hippie culture, racing circuits, and prank wars

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

'IF YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE YOUNG, YOU WILL REMAIN RELEVANT'

Veteran screenwriter Javed Akhtar talks about 'the angry young man', women's increasing involvement in art, and staying relevant as an artiste

Javed Akhtar in conversation with writer Sonali Pattnaik



ANUBHAB ROY

HERE are many words to say about Javed Akhtar and almost certainly, all of them have been said, but few seem to do justice to his stature. Apart from the feathers of writer, lyricist, and poet in his cap, Akhtar's enduring legacy has also had to do with the grace with which he carries himself. At a recent session at the fourth edition of Alliance Literary Festival, in Alliance University, Anekal, the audience got to witness Akhtar at his best, where he let himself flow in his characteristic wit and wisdom.

Akhtar's grasp as a scriptwriter in Bollywood is unparalleled; for decades, his characters have lived beyond the screen in the hearts of many. What sets him apart, amongst other elements, is his ability to immerse himself into a character regardless of gender. The result is female characters who are fully formed, unlike many misogynistic representations that Bollywood often imposes. Akhtar does not recognise a gender binary, saying, "Men and women are similar in many matters; historically, women have been oppressed to believe that it is not in their rights to display emotion. But it is a lie that is now exposed. I'm happy that with every generation, women are increasingly getting into art, demanding, snatching, and getting their rights," he says.

Bollywood, as an institution, has for long been the source of many expressions carried on in reality; a great example of it would be the 'angry young man' on the silver screen shaping Indian masculinity through ages. Akhtar's response to this phenomenon is piercing, drawing a scathing indictment of what the Indian 'angry young man' truly is. "If at all you're angry, the question is, towards whom? Anyone who is angry with the weak or the vulnerable, the less powerful, is not angry. That person is a bully," he says. Much of this indictment is directed towards the domestic space where such violence is enacted.

True to his poetic intent, he uses the metaphor of Gabbar Singh from *Sholay* – a movie he was the screenwriter of – and underlines that he is never deemed to be an 'angry young man' because he has no ethical anger, towards the state for instance. He is singular and flat in his violence.

Even standing at the precipice of a life lived so enormously, Akhtar strives for more: he wishes he had 'picked up an instrument, read more, and learnt another language'. His secret to relevance is one that advises against consciously trying to be relevant, and for immersing oneself in their work. "You remain or you become relevant if you are humble enough to know, understand or accept that the world is changing. If you can listen to the young, if you are willing to learn from them and understand them, then you will remain relevant. At this moment, the youth are better than us; how long they remain so, that is to be seen," he comments.

ANUBHAB ROY

SHRADDHA JAIN, with her beaming greeting of 'Namaskara Bengaluru', was welcomed with deafening cheers by a crowd of youngsters who had made their way into a packed venue. The popular content creator who has 1 million followers on Instagram was there to perform a stand-up comedy routine at Alliance University's Alliance Literary Festival on Saturday.

Most would know Jain from her online handle @aiyyoshraddha. As a content creator, she has garnered massive popularity across India and beyond with her comedy skits featuring creative and relatable caricatures of everyday people. Jain has taken on multiple forms and roles in her Instagram reels, executing them in terms of writing and video-editing, recently winning in the category of Best Creative Creator (Female) in the National Creators Awards for her content.

Nevertheless, being a content creator is in many ways different from being a stand-up comedian; while a lot of labour goes into producing the short, snappy videos, there is yet a different slew of challenges that performing live entails. Jain's session at the festival, unlike the others, was not a moderated session, but a stand-up routine. The audience was awed with the effortless grace with which Jain

FROM REELS TO ROARS

Instagram comedy sensation Shraddha Jain, or 'Aiyyo Shraddha', had the audience in stitches with her stand-up comedy set



Literary Celebration

Alliance University hosted Alliance Literary Fest from February 13 to 15. A range of writers, artists, and dignitaries from various fields, including giants like Anil Kumble, Anju Bobby George, Urvashi Butalia, and Javed Akhtar, took to the stage and enriched the crowd with their insightful sessions. The theme for this year's festival was 'The Asian Century', positing the continent as an emerging contender in shaping literature and global discourse. Despite the venue being at the Anekal campus, a bit out of bounds for most in Bengaluru, around 13,000 attendees made their way to the event to get their dose of exciting literary discussions.

took to the stage, and there seemed to be no dissonance between the screen comedian they were used to additively laughing at, and the stage one.

Like any good comedian, Jain's set showed her ability to take challenges into stride. Her session being just preceded by Javed Akhtar's, she alluded multiple times to the elephant in the room. Equal parts deflecting and embracing, she exclaimed, "Following the Javed Akhtar and trying to deliver! Can you imagine the audacity!"

GAYATHRI M KURUP

In a world that is constantly changing, where skyscrapers define a country's development and conformity to modernism makes us forget our roots, artist Orijit Sen, who was in the city recently for a talk at Christ (Deemed to be University), stands as a mirror reflecting the soul of urban India. Known for *River of Stories*, a graphic novel about the construction of the Narmada Dam, his work serves as a reminder of the places we live in, the buildings that hold our history, and the stories that are often lost in the noise of progress.

From being born in Bengal to living in multiple cities, Sen's artistic journey talks about the changing faces of urban cities. With the intricate architecture and vibrant colouring of the cityscapes, he blends the past with the present, evoking a sense of nostalgia while reminding the reader what has been lost to development.

"Urban spaces around us are constantly changing. Some of these changes may be for the better, while others may not. The impact of these changes often depends on the parameters we use to determine whether they are positive or negative. For me, the lens through which I view these changes is rooted in humanity, community, tradition, and the interdependency of communities within urban spaces," says Sen. Beyond the beautifully crafted paintings and aesthetics, Sen questions the impact of political policies and urban forces that affect the masses. "When political forces attempt to create demarcations, reinforce hierarchies, or capitalise on existing inequalities for their gains, the delicate interde-



A recent mural by Orijit Sen

Urbanism Reimagined

Graphic artist Orijit Sen delves into changing cityscapes and evolving lives



pendence of communities – an essential aspect of urban life – begins to deteriorate," adds Sen.

For Sen, cities are not just mere buildings, but dynamic spaces where histories, cultures, and communities converge. Through his projects, he brings attention to spaces that may soon fade away, ensuring they remain etched in our memory. He recalls a village pond in Punjab, which held, for the community, their childhood, family gatherings, livelihood, and even romance. "So it talks about the past, present, ecology, natural science, the wetlands of Punjab – all these memories. So when you create an artwork, you are able to show all of this," says Sen.

When asked about Bengaluru, Sen remembers his time living in the city fondly. "Back then, we used to live in a very up and coming place, with a lot of empty space. Bangalore is a beautiful place and it has its own rich traditions; I love the idea of it. But people who have seen the other Bangalore, can't get around to it," concludes Sen.

CITY READ

Restaurant to launch Silk Road-inspired menu on Feb 17

Experience bold flavours and spices inspired by the ancient Silk Road at Feast, Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway, Malleswaram, from February 17 to 28. Available from 12.30pm to 4pm, the menu showcases dishes tracing their origins to Persian and Mughal kitchens and is designed to transport you to the rugged beauty of the Northwest Frontier. Enjoy the slow-cooked delicacy, gosht ki haleem, with the subtly sweet, saffron-kissed sheermal, alongside nihari and taftaan. The spread continues with an array of kebabs, winter greens, and much more. Priced at ₹2,899 onwards. For reservations, call 87924 93438.



Breakthrough device set to fight liver failure



Bengaluru scientists, in collaboration with medical experts, have developed the Extracorporeal Bioengineered Dual Cell Liver Regeneration System (EBDLR), a groundbreaking device offering hope in the fight against Acute Liver Failure (ALF). The EBDLR system mimics the liver's functions, allowing patients' livers to heal naturally without requiring transplants. "This device gives critically ill patients a real chance at survival," says Dr Mahesh Gopasetty, Liver Transplant Surgeon. Approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) and currently undergoing clinical trials, it aims to reduce dependence on transplants.

XPRESS FOCUS

Eugenix Hair Sciences The Premier Hair Transplant Destination for Cricket Icons

Eugenix Hair Sciences has cemented its position as the gold standard in hair restoration, trusted by an elite circle of cricketers, legends, international athletes, and Bollywood luminaries. With state-of-the-art clinics in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Bhubaneswar, Eugenix is the go-to destination for cutting-edge hair transplant solutions – seamlessly blending scientific expertise with artistic mastery.

The Visionaries Behind Eugenix

Helmed by world-renowned specialists Dr. Pradeep Sethi and Dr. Arika Bansal, Eugenix combines cutting-edge technology with meticulous artistry to deliver results that not only enhance appearance but also restore confidence. Every procedure is personalized, ensuring each client receives the highest level of expertise and care.

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Unveils HERizon Care

Indias First Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan Designed Exclusively for Women

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, a leading private general insurer in India, has announced the launch of 'HERizon Care', a thoughtfully designed inclusive health insurance product that caters exclusively to women's evolving healthcare needs. This comprehensive policy addresses critical illnesses, maternal and reproductive health, wellness, and more, empowering women with financial security throughout their life stages. HERizon Care is the first health insurance plan in India that offers multiple specialized covers in a single policy, providing holistic protection tailored to women's unique needs.

Digit Life Insurance launches Glow Term Life Insurance to make buying simpler for 51 Percentage self-employed Kannadigas

Go Digit Life Insurance Limited (Digit Life), one of India's fastest growing new-age digital life insurers has launched its first individual pure term life insurance plan "Digit Glow Term Life Insurance", designed specifically for self-employed Indians. To enable seamless customer servicing and quick onboarding of agents, Digit Life Insurance has also opened multiple offices in Koramangala in Bengaluru.

Speaking about the launch, Sundee Bharadwaj, Chief Business Officer, Go Digit Life Insurance Limited, said, "Self-employed Kannadigas, including small business owners, gig workers, and professionals, are the backbone of our economy. Yet, they lack adequate life insurance coverage due to traditional underwriting challenges. With Digit Glow Term Life Insurance, we aim to bridge this gap by simplifying access and making it inclusive for Karnataka's self-employed workforce."

INDIAWOOD 2025 25 Years of Driving Innovation in Woodworking and Furniture Manufacturing

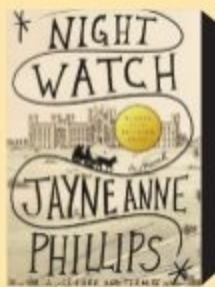
Marking a quarter-century of industry advancements & growth, INDIAWOOD 2025, the leading trade fair for woodworking and furniture manufacturing, will take place from March 6-9, 2025, at India Expo Mart & Centre (IEM), Greater Noida, Delhi NCR. As part of NuernbergMesse global woodworking portfolio, this milestone edition reflects India's emergence as a manufacturing powerhouse and a key global player in the furniture and woodworking industry.

**BOOK
NOOK**



The End of the Moment We Had
by Toshiki Okada

The two brilliant, multi-layered stories from the Kenzaburo Oe Prize winner Okada demonstrates the fluidity and richness of the writer's language and ideas.



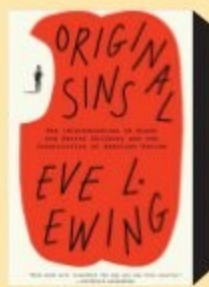
Night Watch: A Novel
by Jayne Anne Phillips

A mesmerising story about a mother and daughter seeking refuge in the chaotic aftermath of the Civil War — and a brilliant portrait of family endurance against all odds.



Dance of Shadows
by Gourav Mohanty

As the royal houses of *Sons of Darkness* intrigued, manoeuvred and finally met in open battle with devastating consequences, far more sinister deeds were unfolding just over the Eastern horizon. *Dance of Shadows* is that story.



Original Sins
By Eve L. Ewing

Why don't our schools work? Ewing tackles this question from a new angle: What if they're actually doing what they were built to do? She argues that instead of being the great equaliser, America's classrooms were designed to do the opposite: to maintain the nation's inequalities. It's a task at which they excel.



SOAKING IT IN

Visitors take a look at plants on display at the Festival of Handmade held at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, HSR Layout | **ALLEN EGENUSE J**

QUICKFIX

ONION TOMATO CHUTNEY RECIPE

INGREDIENTS

- Onions (sliced): 2 large
- Dry red chillies: 2-3
- Garlic (chopped): 1 large clove
- Tomato (cubed): 1 ripe
- Asafoetida: 1/4 tsp
- Oil: 2 tsp
- Salt to taste

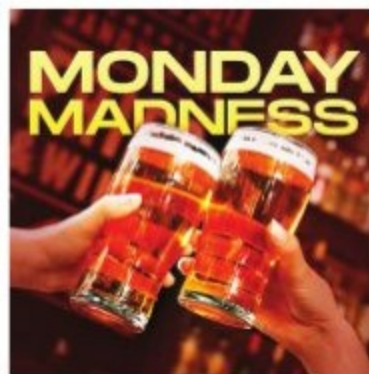
METHOD

- Heat the oil in a pan. Add the sliced onions and fry until they are light golden brown and softened.
- Add the dry red chillies (or red chilli powder), garlic, and asafoetida. Fry for a short time until the garlic is fragrant (avoid burning).
- Add the cubed tomato and salt. Mix well and cook until the tomatoes soften. Remove from heat and allow to cool.
- Grind the mixture to a smooth paste without adding water.



Contributed by **Akshaya Ravikumar**, Delhi

WHATWHENWHYWHERE



Party Buzz

Kick off your week with an exciting Bollywood Night. Dance to the vibrant beats of DJ Nuthan and enjoy the ultimate party vibe, a perfect night for Bollywood enthusiasts.

● **WHEN:** February 17, 8pm
● **WHERE:** Nolimmits Lounge and Club, Magrath Road
● **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Meet Mingle Match

Find your perfect match at Anonymously Yours. Welcome to the ultimate blind date where matches are carefully selected based on shared interests and values — no swiping, no endless scrolling. The date, time, and venue are sent to you three days in advance. Step out of your comfort zone and find your better half.

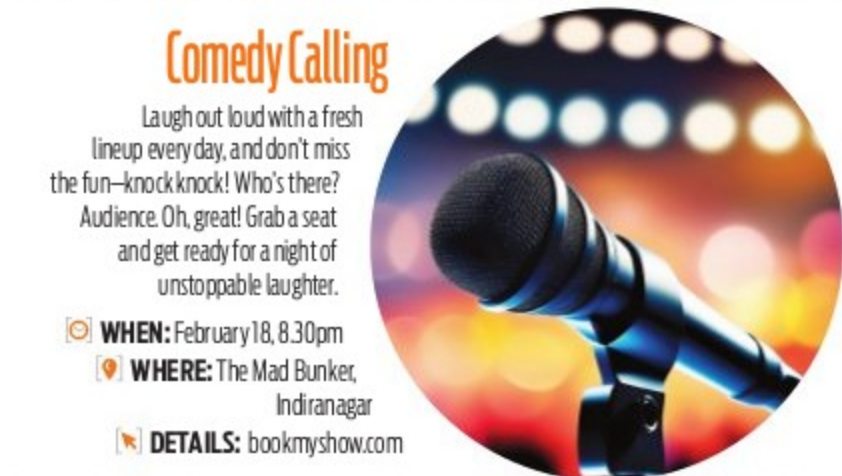
● **WHEN:** February 18, 7pm
● **WHERE:** 3rd Cross Park, Vasanth Nagar
● **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Stage Chronicle

Enjoy *Mera Wajood* by Amul Sagar Nath, a powerful tale of the trans folks' struggles, resilience, and self-discovery. Celebrating identity and the triumph of the human spirit, the play is a call for inclusivity and embracing diversity with pride.

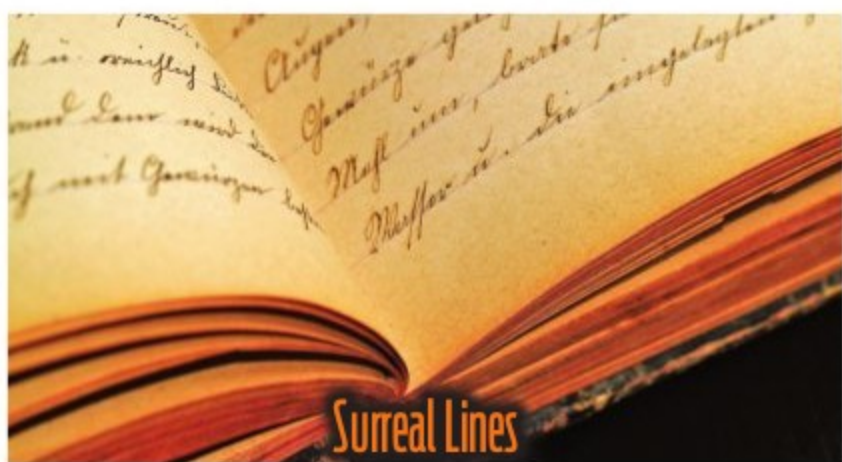
● **WHEN:** February 18, 7:30pm | ● **WHERE:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
● **DETAILS:** ranga.shankara.org



Comedy Calling

Laugh out loud with a fresh lineup every day, and don't miss the fun-knock-knock! Who's there? Audience. Oh, great! Grab a seat and get ready for a night of unstoppable laughter.

● **WHEN:** February 18, 8:30pm
● **WHERE:** The Mad Bunker, Indiranagar
● **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Surreal Lines

Experience an evening of profound poetry as Ethiopian poet NE Samuel takes you on a journey through existential themes, self-reflection, and life's fragility, blending surrealist imagery with deep introspection.

● **WHEN:** February 18, 7:30pm | ● **WHERE:** Urban Solare, Ulsoor
● **DETAILS:** district.in



Play Paradise

Hamley's Play brings a fresh twist to fun, blending outdoor energy with endless imagination! Join Mr. & Mrs. Hopper in their magical garden packed with adventures like the Musical Wall, Ball Pool, Rock Climbing, Water Play, and more. Plus, enjoy Storytelling and creative DIY activities for non-stop excitement.

● **WHEN:** February 17, 11am
● **WHERE:** Phoenix Mall of Asia, Yelahanka
● **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Goal Duel

Witness SC Bengaluru face off against Inter Kashi in an intense, high-energy clash. Feel the adrenaline as our home team battles with skill and determination. Don't miss this thrilling encounter.

● **WHEN:** February 18, 3:30pm
● **WHERE:** Bangalore Football Stadium, Ashok Nagar
● **DETAILS:** district.in



DR VIVEK ARORA
The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My two-year-old rabbit starts grunting and circling whenever he hears loud volume in the house or outside. Is this a common behaviour? How can I put him at ease?

Grunting and circling are signs of stress or excitement in rabbits, often triggered by loud noises due to their sensitive hearing. To help ease your rabbit, create a quiet, safe space away from noise. You can also use soft background noise, like classical music, to reduce the impact

**ASK AN
XPERT**

of sudden sounds. Gradual desensitisation with positive reinforcement can help him adjust to louder environments. Offering distractions like chew toys may also soothe him. If the behaviour continues or worsens, it's best to consult a vet for guidance on managing your rabbit's stress.



**EXPRESS
CONNECT**

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART
WORK TO SHARE, OR
A QUESTION TO ASK?

✉ @XpressBengaluru / @tnifeatures

✉ bengaluru.cityexpress@gmail.com

📱 @xpress_bengaluru

FITBIT

SARVANGASANA
(SHOULDERSTAND POSE)

Sarvangasana, also known as Shoulderstand Pose, is called the mother of all Yoga Poses because it benefits both the body and mind. This intermediate-level pose requires practitioners to have some comfort with various yoga postures. Since the entire body is balanced on the upper shoulders, it is also called Kandrasana. It serves as a base pose for Shoulderstand variations and helps boost energy, making it ideal for flow yoga sequences. The pose strengthens the arms, shoulders, middle and upper back, core, and neck muscles.

STEPS

- After performing Savasana (Corpse Pose), raise your legs to a 90-degree angle and hold for a few breaths.
- Inhale, lift the legs higher, support the lower back with your palms, and place the arms on the floor. Exhale completely while taking the body higher into the pose.
- Bring the chest close to your face. As you exhale, hold the position, and with each inhalation, stretch the body upwards while keeping the shoulders firm on the floor.
- In this position, the body is supported by the shoulders, giving the pose its name, Shoulderstand Pose or Sarvangasana.
- Engage the abdominal muscles and maintain the pose for about 10 breaths, keeping the body light and relaxed.

LIMITATIONS

- Avoid this pose if you have severe back pain, spine injury, spondylitis, heart conditions, weak internal organs (spleen, liver, kidneys), enlarged thyroid, high blood pressure, or infections in the throat or ears.
- Pregnant and menstruating women should not practise this pose. This pose should be performed under the guidance of an experienced yoga therapist if being used for therapeutic purposes.



By **N Elumalai**, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER



IN NATURE'S SOLITUDE

Artist Tito Stanley's subjects sit in eerie tranquillity amid the luminous beauty of flowers, trees, and a sunset that illuminate the evening

KYLAQ & SWEET TEAMS



Skoda Kylaq, with its seamless blend of quality, safety and comfort at a favourable price range, is a compelling option for those eyeing an SUV

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

THE sub-4-metre SUV segment has become the sweet spot of India's car market, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of passenger car sales in the nation. Czech carmaker Skoda is the latest entrant into this.

Recently, I had the opportunity to test-drive its latest model, Kylaq, in Goa. Let's see how this India-focused SUV performs on our roads.

Exterior

Kylaq is the first Skoda model in India to adopt the Modern Solid design language. The front features a glossy black grille with 3D ribs and split headlamps. The slim DRLs sit on top and the main headlamps are sit slightly lower. Fog lamps with a cornering light function are integrated into the setup.

The side profile features modern lines and robust cladding around the wheel arches. The high ground clearance combined with sculpted sills enhances its SUV stance within a compact footprint. The doors close over the running board, an uncommon feature. However, during the rainy season, extra care is needed to prevent mud getting trapped inside. The 17-inch alloy wheels are well proportioned, while faux roof rails and skid plates add to its rugged appeal. At the rear, the all-new Skoda wordmark on a wide black stripe flanked by sleek taillights, completes the sophisticated design.

Interior

Inside, the Kylaq's cabin closely re-



FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

sembles its elder sibling, the Skoda Kushaq. It exudes a premium feel with a digital instrument cluster, a two-spoke steering wheel, and a familiar climate control console. Unique to the Kylaq are 'olive green' inserts on the dashboard, door panels, and centre console. However, the touch-sensitive AC controls can be tricky to use.

The front seats are six-way electrically adjustable and ventilated. Higher variants come with electric sunroofs. Other key features include cruise control, steering-mounted paddle shifters for the six-speed automatic gearbox, leatherette seats, wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, and wireless charging. The dashboard houses a 25.6 cm infotainment screen, while the driver gets a 20.32 cm Virtual Cockpit display.

Dimension-wise, the Kylaq measures 3.995 metres in length, 1.783 metres in width, and 1.619 metres in height, with a wheelbase of 2.566 metres. Most notably, it offers a generous 189mm ground clearance. The boot space stands at 446 litres.

Performance

Kylaq is powered by a 1.0-litre turbo-petrol engine producing 114hp and 178Nm of torque. Transmission options include a six-speed

manual and a six-speed torque converter automatic with paddle shifters.

I tested both variants on the smooth roads of Goa-Verna. Skoda claims a 0-100 km/h time of 10.5 seconds for the manual version. Even at higher speeds, the car remained stable. Both versions deliver a smooth driving experience. The power delivery is linear and seamless, with no noticeable jerks during gear shifts. The steering, brakes, and suspension inspire confidence and ensures ride comfort. In the manual version, the clutch has a long play, but gear shifts are precise. The company claims an approximate fuel efficiency of 19kmpl.

Safety

Safety is another major highlight. The Kylaq has set a benchmark in its segment, securing the highest Bharat NCAP rating for an ICE sub-4-metre compact SUV. It scored an impressive 30.88 out of 32 (97 per cent) in Adult Occupant Protection and 45 out of 49 (92 per cent) in Child Occupant Protection.

The SUV packs over 25 active and passive safety features, including six airbags, traction and stability control, ABS with EBD, brake disc wiping, roll over protection, motor slip regulation, electronic differential lock, passenger airbag deactivation, multi-collision braking, and ISOFIX child seat mounts.

Verdict

With prices starting at ₹7.89 lakh, the Skoda Kylaq delivers a blend of quality, safety, and comfort that makes it a worthy contender in the price segment.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

Runway steals the show, asks poignant questions

LILIYA ROSE

HAVE you thought of those who don't rise to the top of pageant titles like Miss Kerala and Miss India? Regrettably, people don't them with indecorous titles."

This line from the short film *Runway*, which has been enjoying a 'runaway' success on YouTube since its release two weeks ago, throws light on society's scrutinising eye towards the modelling industry. Invariably, it also unveils the abuse that young girls endure within the industry.

Though shot in just eight days, the 50-minute film, written and directed by Lee Ali and produced by Ebin Sunny, is superb.

It revolves around two characters - Afsha (Ansha Mohan) and Megha (Liz Mathews), two modelling aspirants who, whilst navigating their way through the industry met challenges that they were least prepared for. "The story is in part inspired by real-life incidents," says Lee, the debutant director, hinting at the sensational 2021 case wherein two models and their friend met with a fatal accident while allegedly being chased by those with dubious intentions.

"The two girls," Lee says, "had come to Kochi with big dreams, just like me. As my first project, I wanted to touch upon a meaningful and socially relevant subject and I felt their story deserved to be told well." Indeed, close on the heels of the accident and as more information regarding the girls' modelling career unfolded, social media was rife with discussions about their lives. Most of them painted the duo in a bad light.

"Some of my friends knew the girls. Even though I didn't know them personally, I could relate to their struggles. To blame them for the sole reason of going to a pub was a dis-



Lee Ali, director

turbing response. With the film, I wanted to speak out about this unfortunate turn of events. Also, we still don't know what actually transpired that night. So, I used art as a voice for justice," Lee says.

Indeed, the viewers too have taken cognizance of this. One comments, "I heard many rumours about their deaths. Most of them were completely false and heartbreaking. The film may not change anything, but it's a small tribute, especially to the girls' mothers, who stood resolutely by them."

Even if one is not clued in about the events that transpired in 2021, watching *Runway* is at once exciting and moving. As one has commented, "The film feels more like a feature movie and gives a true and raw cinematic experience."

Indeed, the film has excelled in its production aspects too. While Aswin Ram was in charge of the music, Vikas Alphonse edited the shots taken by Najose.

Interestingly, Ansha, who plays one of the lead roles, is a fashion model in real life, and this experience shines through. Srinish Aravind who plays the character Azar too is equally competent and has garnered positive comments from the viewers. So has newcomer Arya Vimal, who plays Andrea in her debutant role. In addition, there are familiar faces such as Adhri Joe and Zhinzhan.

The film is a product of nine years of hard work, Lee says. "I arrived in Kochi at the age of 20, carrying only a great passion for cinema and a small sum that I got from selling my bike. I certainly couldn't have managed to get through these past years without the support of my friends," he adds.

Lee's hardwork and perseverance have certainly borne fruit with *Runway* crossing 3.5 lakh views on YouTube already. Now, he and Ebin are working on their next project - a feature film.

NUGGETS



Premium speakeasy hosts Bar Takeover

ZLB23, a Kyoto speakeasy at The Leela Palace Bengaluru, is set to host the Bar Takeover by ARGO, Hong Kong, a restaurant ranked ninth in Asia's 50 Best Bars 2024, on February 19 at 8pm. Known for redefining mixology with innovative menus like Argo Forestry and the latest 'Combinations', beverage manager Federico Balzarini and bartender Lance Hizon will bring their expertise to the event. Highlights include gummy bear-laced welcome drinks, live demonstrations, and engaging discussions.



College hosts intercollegiate IT festival

Kristu Jayanti College, Kothanur, recently hosted Shells 2025, an intercollegiate IT festival, bringing together 150 students from 15 colleges for a day of innovation-driven competitions. Inaugurated by Dinesh Patil, Senior Director, R&D at Synopsys India Pvt. Ltd., the event emphasised critical thinking, lifelong learning, and adaptability as essential qualities for future IT leaders. Participants competed in events like Neural Nexus (IT quiz), WebGenie (web design), Codex (coding & debugging), and Augmented Paradigm (IT managing), showcasing their technical prowess in a vibrant and collaborative environment. Focused on inspiring and educating budding technologists, Shells 2025 concluded with growing anticipation for its next edition in 2026.

Sufi musical night to be held on Feb 19

Windmills, a microbrewery and restaurant, is set to host a Sufi music night, titled Rohirang - Colours of the Desert, featuring singer Mir Mukhtyar Ali on February 19 at 8pm. Rooted in the traditions of the Mirasi lineage of Rajasthan, Mukhtyar promises to bring timeless compositions by poets including Bulleh Shah, Kabir, and Meerabai, transforming their verses into a unique musical experience. Tickets are priced at ₹2,000++ for seating and ₹750++ for standing.



PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, R.MAMATHA (New name) W/o K.S.Shivakumar, Residing at Kerosine Bunk Backside, Near Jalappa College, Shertinagar, Kodagahalli, Doddaballapur Taluk, do hereby declare that, My name is mentioned as MAMATHA in the pass port and in Adhar card and PAN card mentioned as R.MAMATHA. My Correct name is R.MAMATHA. From herewith I shall be known and called as R.MAMATHA for all purposes. Vide affidavit Dated: 01-02-2025 Sworn before the notary Prakasha.C at Doddaballapur

ANNOUNCEMENT
 I, Smt. Renuka Devi, S.A. residing at D/No. 97, Shivambika Bhavanam, Vinayaka Street, 5th Cross, Bharath Matha Layout, Venkateshpuram, VTC, Bangalore North Post, Arabic College post, Bangalore-560045 here by state that my son Abhishek M.R.'s birth certificate and school records my name is wrongly entered as S.A. RENUKA DEVI instead of RENUKA DEVI. S.A. Vide affidavit dated 8-01-2025 before notary HK Gopalagowda, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, (OLD NAME) REKHA DADHICH W/o Bhupendra Dadhich Serve No.713806-L Rank: SGT, Residing at No. TMQ 158/14, Command Hospital, Air Force, Cambridge Road, Agram Post, Bangalore 560007, have changed my name from (OLD NAME) REKHA DADHICH to (NEW NAME) REKHA DADHECH vide affidavit dated 01.02.2025 sworn before Notary Varija C.J., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Benny Eldhose S/o Benny Paul, residing at Olappura House Kootumadham Vattakkattupady Road, Rayamangalam, Ernakulam, Kerala 683545, have changed my Name to Eldhose Benny Paul vide affidavit dated 15-02-2025 sworn before notary Onkarappa.N.R Bangalore.

NAME DECLARATION
 I, Dr. G. C. PUSHPA W/o Anjali Gopalakrishna Arali, aged about 50 years, R/at No. 72, Arali, Dyapandara, Maru Taluk, Kolar District- 563130, now at Bengaluru, My birth name is PUSHPA. G. C. do G. M. Channappa, My name is correctly mentioned as PUSHPA. G. C. in all my school, college certificates, Aadhar Card and other records. But in my passport my name has been mentioned as Anjali Pushpa instead of PUSHPA. G. C. Both are my names. The prefix Anjali is my husband's surname. I request the concerned authorities to consider my name as PUSHPA. G. C. and to consider the same here onwards for all the future transactions. Vide affidavit dated 15.02.2025, sworn to before Notary, B.Prasanna.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, HUZefa ABAS BANGALOREWALA (new Name), S/o. Mr. Abbas Saifuddin @ Abbas Bhai Bangalore Wala & Mrs. Tasnim Abbas @ Tasneem Abbas, previously called HUSAIFA ABAS BHAI BANGALORE WALA (old Name), R/at of No.80/8, 2nd Cross, 8th Main Road, RBI Colony, Byrasanahalli, Near Taj Darbar Restaurant, Bangalore South, Bengaluru, Jayanagar III Block, Karnataka-560011. I have changed my name from "HUSAIFA ABAS BHAI BANGALORE WALA" to "HUZEFA ABAS BANGALOREWALA" Vide affidavit dated 14.02.2025, sworn to before Notary, Mohammed Hussain.K.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, GIRISHA S/o. Shankar K, residing at No. 32, 3rd Main Road, Vinayaka Nagar, Banashankari 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560050, declaring that my minor Son's name is wrongly mentioned in his Adhar Card as BHARATH G instead of GOKUL GOWDA G, and his correct name is GOKUL GOWDA G, vide affidavit dated 05.02.2025, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, MANJULA H.S alias ROOPA, W/o. Shankar Gowda, residing at No. 75, Chowdeshwari Nilaya, Maruthi Nagar, near Maruthi School, J.P Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078, declaring that Both MANJULA H.S and ROOPA names are one and belongs to me only. I use MANJULA H.S for all my future correspondences, vide affidavit dated 15.02.2025, sworn before notary Prakasha C, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, SHESHA SIMHA MALAI, residing at No. 36, 3rd Main road, Hanumanthnagar, Bangalore-560019, have changed my name to SHESHA SIMHA NARASANDRA MALAI NAGAKRISHNA, vide affidavit dated 15.02.2025, sworn before notary L Shankaranarayana, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, SUDHARSHAN SUBRAMANIAN.P S/o Dr. S.PADMANABHAN, Aged about 25 years, Resident at NO.D-202, CHARTERED BEVERLY HILLS, GUBBALALA, BENGALURU S.O.U.TH. BENGALURU-560061, KARNATAKA, declare that I am also called in the both names SUDHARSHAN SUBRAMANIAN.P and P. SUDHARSHAN SUBRAMANIAN, these both names refers, pertains and belongs to same person, myself only P. SUDHARSHAN SUBRAMANIAN for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 12-02-2025 before Notary GANGARAJU B.N. at BENGALURU



CHANGE OF NAME
 I, CHRISTABEL GEETHA, is legally wedded spouse of No.15304655P Ex Hav DEXTER SYLAS PENGAL, residing at No38, Pete Krishnappa Layot, 2nd Cross, K Channasandra, Bangalore-560043, have changed my name from CHRISTABEL GEETHA to GEETHA PENGAL, vide affidavit dated: 15.02.2025, before Notary S. Samuel Solomon, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, ALBERT VICTOR MANICKARAJ, S/o Chinnappan Albert, aged about 49 years, R/at No. B-306, Bildens Swarganga, 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Jakkasandra, Koramangala 1st Block, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560034, have changed my name to VICTOR MANICKA RAJ .A, vide affidavit dated 15.02.2025, before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I the undersigned S DAIYANA, aged about 41 Years, W/o Albert S, residing at No. 23/60, shakti Nagar, Behind TTK Dooravani Nagar Post, Bangalore-560016, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from DAIYANA S to S DAIYANA henceforth I shall be known and called as S DAIYANA for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15/02/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary SRINATHA D.R at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, the undersigned SUDHAKAR .T, S/o G. Thimmareddy, aged about 42 years, R/at No.4, 9th Main road, Brindhanagar, Mathikere Post, Bangalore-560054, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SUDHAKARA .T to SUDHAKAR .T henceforth I shall be known and called as SUDHAKAR .T for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15-02-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary V. SRINIVASA REDDY at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, NAYAN .R, D/o Ravi. M.A, aged about 27 years, R/at No.1, 1st Cross, Chinnanna layout, Guddahalli, Hebbel, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560032, do hereby declare that the both names i.e. NAYANA .R and NAYAN .R are one and the same refers to me only henceforth I shall be known and called as NAYAN .R vide affidavit dated 15-02-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary LEELA at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
 I the undersigned SHARATH M BHARADWAJ, S/o G Manjunath, aged 25 years, residing at Flat No.101, Sri Ganesh Apartment, Near New Ramakrishna Seva Trust, Ginnagar 2nd Stage, BSK III Stage, Bengaluru-560085, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SHARATH M to SHARATH M BHARADWAJ henceforth I shall be known and called as SHARATH M BHARADWAJ for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15/02/2025 sworn before Advocate and Notary B.G. SRIRAM at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, PRAJNA W/o Krishnaprasad B. A., Age 41 years, Occ: House wife, R/o FCI Layout, Deepanjali Nagar, Bengaluru, have changed my Son's name from PRANAV to PRANAV KRISHNA PRASAD BHARADWAJ (New name) for all purpose vide Affidavit dated 30-12-2024, Sworn before Notary Lokesh K.M, Hubballi.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, MUKESH KUMAR NAHAR, resident of No. 202/B, 6th Main, 5th Cross, Industrial Town, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010, do hereby declare that I have changed my daughter's name from GARVI JAIN to GARIMA JAIN, vide affidavit date 12.02.2025, sworn to before Jain Swarnamala, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, MUKESH KUMAR NAHAR, resident of No. 202/B, 6th Main, 5th Cross, Industrial Town, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010, do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from DHAWAL KUMAR JAIN / JAIN DHAWAL NAHAR to BHAVIT M NAHAR, vide affidavit date 12.02.2025, sworn to before Jain Swarnamala, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Meena D/o. M. Narayan Rao, aged, Residing at No. 202/B, 6th Main, #857, 3rd Cross, 5th 'A' Main, Vijaya Bank Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Meena to Meena Varun, vide affidavit dated 12.02.2025, sworn to before D.S. Chandrakanth, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, DODDABIDARE SHAMANNA CHAYAPATHY S/o Doddabidare Shamanna, and residing at No.48, 1st Main, College Teachers Layout, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560 085, have changed my name from DODDABIDARE SHAMANNA CHAYAPATHY to DODDABIDARE SHAMANNA CHAYAPATHY, vide affidavit dated 13/2/2025 sworn to before V.Rajasekhara Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, KANATHUR NARASIMHAMURTHY SHARADAMBA W/o D.S.Chayapathy, and residing at No.48, 1st Main, College Teachers Layout, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore - 560085, have changed my name from SHARADHAMBA CHAYAPATHY to KANATHUR NARASIMHAMURTHY SHARADAMBA, vide affidavit dated 13/2/2025 sworn to before V.Rajasekhara Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, Monica Mary Gomes age 68. R/s #3.4th G Main, 2nd Block, Kalyannagar, Bangalore-560043. MONICA GOMES and Monica Mary Gomes one and sameperson vide affidavit date 13-02-2025 before notary C.Sharada, Banagalore - 84

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, M LAVANYA W/o Adarsh K, #32, 3rd main, new Manjunatha layout, Near Kowdenahalli, Ramamurthy nagar, VTC: Bangalore North, PO: Doornanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka, PIN Code: 560016 have changed my daughter's name from MITHANYA A to MAHANI A vide affidavit dated: 15/02/2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, UMA RAMAKRISHNA REDDY, W/o. Babu Reddy Thirupalya Ramachandra Reddy, Residing at Hotte Chandrappa Building, Jigani Road, Bommasandra, Thirupalya, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560099, have changed my name to UMA BABUREDDY RAMAKRISHNA REDDY vide affidavit dated: 14.02.2025 before notary ARAVIND PATIL, G.G., Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, GOPINATH B P, S/o. Late M K Prasanna Kumar, aged about 56 years, residing at No. #103 Shubham, Opp Eeshanya Apartment, Telecom Layout HBR 5th Block, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka 560043, have changed my son's name from KEERTHI SUBRAMANYA B G to KEERTHEESH SUBRAMANIAN B G vide affidavit dated: 15/02/2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, MURALI KUSUGURU, Aged about 36 Years, S/o Anandappa, Residing at Sumukha Apts, Flat No.202, 8th A Main, 4th Stage, 4th Block, Basaveswahr Nagar, Bengaluru - 560079, Karnataka, have changed my name to MURALI A KUSAGUR vide affidavit dated: 15.02.2025 before Advocate and Notary DEEPA. M., Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
 I, M.C. MALARVIZHI, Aged 55 Years, W/o. T. Arivalagan, Residing at No. A-004, Platina Exotica, 1st Main Road, Gnanabharathi, Near Gnanabodhini School, Dubaspalya, Bangalore-560059, Karnataka, do hereby solemnly declare that MALARVIZHI ARIVALAGAN, MALARVIZHI AND M C MALARVIZHI are One and the Same Person. Henceforth will be known as Smt. M.C. MALARVIZHI W/o. T. Arivalagan. OLD NAME: M.C. MALARVIZHI. NEW NAME: M.C. MALARVIZHI W/o. T. Arivalagan. vide affidavit dated: 15-02-2025 sworn to before notary B.M. Chandrasekar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
 I, UMA RAMAKRISHNA REDDY, W/o. Babu Reddy Thirupalya Ramachandra Reddy, Residing at Hotte Chandrappa Building, Jigani Road, Bommasandra, Thirupalya, Bengaluru, Karnataka -560099, have changed my name to UMA BABUREDDY RAMAKRISHNA REDDY vide affidavit dated: 14.02.2025 before notary ARAVIND PATIL, G.G., Bengaluru.

For SMART ADS
 Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
 9886550650
 080-22866893



A still from the film

Mansore wraps up shoot for *Dhoora Theera Yaana*

CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR Mansore's film *Dhoora Theera Yaana*, starring Vijay Krishna and Priyanka Kumar in lead roles, has wrapped principal photography. The film, produced under the banner of D Creations, has been shot over a span of 40 days across picturesque locations, including Bangalore, Udipi, Kundapur, Gokarna, Murudeshwar, Karwar, Yellapur, Dandeli, and Goa. This film follows two young lovers who travel on a journey from Bangalore to Goa, seeking the true meaning of their love along the way. The screenplay is penned by Mansore himself, with Chethana Theerthalli contributing

ing the dialogues. The film features six songs composed by Bakresh and Karthik, with lyrics by Jayant Kaikini, Kaviraj, Ramod Maravanthe, and Kiran Kaverappa.

Mansore, known for his meticulous direction, also brings together a talented set of actors in special roles, with details of some of the key performances set to be revealed in the coming days.

The film's art direction is handled by Saravanan Kumar, and National Award-winning editor Nagendra K

Ujjani is onboard as an editor for the film.

Post-production work is progressing smoothly, with the producers confirming that *Dhoora Theera Yaana* will be released in theatres in July 2025.



Mansore

A SHARADHAA

PREM'S next directorial *KD - The Devil*, starring Dhruva Sarja and backed by KVN Productions, is now in the final stages of shooting. With just the last track and a few scenes of the climax left to film, the excitement surrounding the film is palpable. The latest buzz is that *KD* is about to get a major boost with Shivarajkumar joining the star-studded cast of the film. Filmmaking workshops

While rumours had previously hinted at a few top South Indian stars potentially making appearances, it now looks like the makers have managed to get Shivarajkumar on board. He is expected to play a pivotal role in the film's climax in *KD: Part 1*, with his character potentially taking center stage in the sequel, *KD: Part 2*.

Director Prem, known for his diverse casting choices, has worked his magic in bringing Shivanna to the set, marking his first major project post-surgery. It has been reported that Shivanna, currently recovering at home after his treatment in Miami, will begin shooting next week. This is expected to be the final push to wrap up *KD's* production.

Ravichandran and Ramesh Aravind also play crucial roles in the film while Shilpa Shetty is set to make her highly-anticipated return to Kannada cinema. Sanjay Dutt is making his Kannada debut with the film.

With Arjun Janya composing the music and William David and Srinivas P. Prabu handling cinematography and editing, respectively, the film is currently in post-production, aiming for a May 2025 release.

PREM-DHRUVA SARJA'S KD GETS A BOOST WITH SHIVARAJKUMAR JOINING THE CAST

Speculations are rife that the makers plan to wrap up shooting with the final bit of the climax, and Shivanna will be shooting for three days for the first time after his surgery



Shivarajkumar

A QUIRKY LOCAL TWIST ON THE BOND LEGACY

A SHARADHAA

IMAGINE a man with dreams far beyond his current station, an unemployed young man with no clear path ahead. His ambition? To pass his exams and secure a job at a bank, thereby solidifying his future. But *Raju James Bond* isn't just any ordinary journey—it borrows a bit of flair from the world of the infamous spy while creating its own brand of chaotic, local drama.

Set against the backdrop of a small town, the film introduces Raju (Gurunandan), a man facing an extraordinary dilemma. His inheritance from his late parents—the family home—is about to be seized by the bank due to an unpaid loan. With his love life and the roof over his head both at risk, Raju is pushed to the edge. Instead of following the typical lawful solutions, he chooses a much more unconventional route—he decides to rob the very bank that holds the deed to his house.

Raju James Bond may share its title with the suave, gadget-laden spy of international fame, but there's little resemblance to the typical Bond movie. There are no explosive showdowns or exotic locales here, just a quirky, local heist drama steeped in humor and absurdity. Raju might not be in a tuxedo or driving an Aston Martin, but he's about to make some questionable choices to solve his problems. In that sense, he's a "local James Bond"—not saving the world, but desperately trying to save himself, his home, and his future in his own, very flawed way.

Directed by Deepak Madhuvanahalli, the film focuses on Raju's struggles to make something of himself, with his best friend Krishna (Achuth Kumar), an electrician, and his sidekick Paramesh (Chikkanna), a quirky local TV journalist running a small-time chan-

RAJU JAMES BOND
Director: Deepak Madhuvanahalli
Cast: Gurunandan, Achuth Kumar, Chikkanna, Mrudula, Ravi Shankar and Jai Jagadish

nel called TRP TV. Together, they concoct the wild plan to rob the bank, a desperate attempt to reclaim Raju's life and home.

Central to Raju's motivations is his love interest, Vidya (Mrudula), a schoolteacher. Raju's desire to win her heart is complicated by the looming threat of losing everything—his house, his dignity, and his future. As his life unravels, local MLA Bhootayya (Ravishankar) and corrupt police officer Godse (Jai Jagadish) further complicate matters, adding to the mounting chaos.

The film doesn't try to compete with high-octane action thrillers. Instead, it carves its own niche, presenting a local take on a man's struggle with

love, financial ruin, and desperation. The man, despite his flaws, is desperately trying to do whatever it takes to save what he holds dear. The humor is quirky, although it sometimes feels forced, especially in the first half of the film. The pacing struggles a bit, with the heist plot taking too long to unfold, leaving the audience waiting for the action to begin. By the time the second half arrives, some of the film's initial energy has already dissipated.

Gurunandan delivers a heartfelt portrayal of Raju, though the script doesn't always give him the room to fully explore the emotional weight of his decisions. His character often feels limited by the narrative, which doesn't allow for deeper character development. Achuth Kumar and Chikkanna add to the humor, but their characters remain largely secondary, providing comic relief rather than contributing significant depth to the plot.

As for the title *Raju James Bond*, it's clear the filmmakers aimed for a playful reference to the Bond legacy, but without the glamour. The film takes a cheeky approach to the spy genre—substituting globe-trotting action with a small-town heist. Raju is no world-saving spy; he's just trying to save his home and his love life in the most unconventional way possible.

While the film may falter in some aspects, particularly pacing and logic, it does stand out for its unique blend of comedy, drama, and crime. It offers a different flavour of what it means to be a "Bond-like" character—but who's definitely in his own kind of bind. And how he navigates this bind is what makes the film both amusing and unexpectedly relatable.

Raju James Bond is a quirky, if slightly flawed, drama that offers a local take on the story of an underdog facing seemingly insurmountable odds. It's a film about a man who might not be the picture of a traditional hero, but whose journey is compelling in its own, imperfect way.



RATING
2.5/5

Director Shoonya takes on lead role in *Lord Gaga*

CE FEATURES

SHOONYA, the director known for 2022's *Head Bush* starring Dhananjay, is stepping into the limelight in a bold new role—starring as the lead hero in a film titled *Lord Gaga*. Written and directed by YK, who previously helmed *Gilki*, *Lord Gaga* is shaping up to be an action-packed adventure, with Shoonya in the central role.

Shoonya is also producing the film in collaboration with his close friend Muki. The two have launched their very own production house, Zero Gravity Films.

The film's music will be composed by Hemanth Kumar, while cinematography will be handled by Jeevan. The team behind the film is gearing up to begin principal photography by the end of this month. Filming is set to take place in the scenic areas of Udipi and Mangalore. On the other hand, director Shoonya also has *Rosy* with Yogi in the pipeline.



Shoonya

CE FEATURES

INANPITH Award winner and famous author Chandrashekar Kambar recently unveiled the title of the upcoming film *KA-11-1977*. Directed by Jagadeesh Koppa, the film is set to have its muhurat ceremony soon.

A film's title plays a vital role in capturing the audience's attention. A captivating title can spark curiosity and intrigue, which is why filmmakers carefully choose unique and impactful names. The latest film to follow this trend is *KA-11-1977*.

After the title was revealed, Chandrashekar shared his thoughts on the project. "Looking at the title, it's evident that this film could bring something new. Today's audience enjoys such films. Cinema is all about entertainment, and I have full faith that this team will deliver just that. Like many others, I am also eagerly waiting to watch it. Best wishes to the team," said Kambar. Jagadeesh Koppa, known for directing films like *College College* and *Thanks*, is returning to the director's chair after a long gap. In addition to directing *KA-11-1977*, he has written the story and screenplay for the film and is also working as a co-producer.

The film is produced by H Pra-



A film titled
KA-11-1977
in the making



Monk the Young announces release date

CE FEATURES

THE team behind *Monk the Young*, which has sparked curiosity with its intriguing title, is set for its theatrical release on February 28. Following the success of its teaser and catchy songs, the official trailer has raised excitement to new heights. The launch event was a grand affair, attended by the cast and crew, including actor Krishna Ajai Rao, director Simple Suni, stunt director Thriller Manju, and actors Babloo Prithiveeraj, Nishchith, and others, who extended their best wishes to the team ahead of release. The trailer reveals an exhilarating sci-fi adventure where Earth faces imminent destruction, and the essence of life fades. A young girl senses the looming catastrophe, and a mysterious jasmine fragrance offers hope. As evil forces send the Kinari queen of meteors to annihilate Earth, a hero from Muscar Ralda, Ralda Deshy-an Chakora, steps in to save the planet. This cosmic battle of good versus evil promises an intense journey to protect humanity.

Krishna Ajai Rao praised the trailer, saying, "It's hard to believe this is from a new team. The effort is evident, and I hope it does well."

Producers Colonel Rajendran, Gopichand, Lal Chand Khattar, and Vinay Babu Reddy Shettihalli called it a truly pan-India project. Directed by Maschith Surya, the film features Soundarya Gowda, cinematography by Karthik Sharma, and music by Swaminathan.